

ENTRANCE TO THE FLEET RIVER. FROM A PAINTING BY SAMUEL SCOTT

The Scheme for a Thames Embankment after the Great Fire of London

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[Read before the Royal Institute of British Architects on Monday, 19 May 1924.]

IN December 1919 I had the honour to read a paper before this Institute on the Town Planning Schemes of 1666; and to-night I ask you to consider certain proposals with reference to the reconstruction of property on the north bank of the river.

Please forgive me if I first remind you shortly of certain facts and the generally accepted ideas on the subject, all of which you are no doubt as well acquainted with as I am.

Wren showed a wide quay on both his plans, the quay being wider and more important on his first plan, which provided for filling in Dowgate Dock. The proposal to make a quay has been referred to as an example of Wren's great genius, but it was a fairly obvious idea; Hooke proposed a quay and also the abolition of all docks, so as to make a wide and uninterrupted thoroughfare from the Fleet to the Tower. Evelyn's second plan also shows a quay 80 feet wide, and the filling in of Dowgate Dock, so Wren must not get all the credit

for proposing a quay, presuming you consider it a good idea.

It is well to note that a public quay or embankment as shown on the plans of Evelyn and Hooke formed a thoroughfare by the river with no street immediately at the rear, but Wren's plan and the proposed quay according to the Acts of Parliament, which I deal with later, show a quay with a thoroughfare only slightly further north: we have Thames Street, a direct line east and west, and the quayside, according to the Acts of 1667 and 1670, would not have been wanted as it was only a few yards farther south.

In my previous paper I showed how Wren's scheme for the rebuilding of London was rejected by the Privy Council in three days or less.

Two Acts of Parliament were passed, and they stated a quay 40 feet wide was to be made; shortly, the generally accepted view of to-day is that a magnificent quay 40 feet wide was made at public expense, the money being provided by the

coal dues ; this quay has been compared with the present Thames Embankment, and it has been stated that the Corporation of the City of London, after paying for the quay with public funds, allowed people to build over public property until in about 100 years it practically disappeared, and finally that the Corporation went to Parliament in 1821 and obtained an Act repealing certain sections of the old Acts. This Act of 1821 is usually referred to as an Act to " whitewash " the City, it being assumed the Members of the Corporation were so conscious of the scandal created by the misdeeds of their predecessors.

It is not a pretty story, and I am not surprised at the general opinion which I believe I have stated fairly above ; but, on the face of it, it is difficult to understand how such a scandal could have been allowed, the matter was obscure, and I think all of us have a tendency, when we cannot understand anything, to cease investigation and blame somebody, taking the short cut of condemnation, which is always an easy road.

I have doubted the story for years because I knew from a careful study of the records of the Corporation how just it was : in mediæval times the justice was perhaps harsh, often humorous, the punishment being made to fit the crime, as when a poultier offered for sale a putrid capon : he was promptly put in the pillory and the capon burnt under his nose.

I doubted the story when I started to examine the wonderful businesslike methods adopted for dealing with the catastrophe of the Great Fire.

I saw the cash-books, I saw the survey books, and I have dealt elsewhere with the machinery adopted.* I doubt if the method could be improved upon to-day : you may be interested to hear that shortly after the recent disaster in Japan, when after the earthquakes the cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were practically destroyed by fire, the representatives in England of the Japanese Government applied to our librarian at the Guildhall, and asked for a list of books showing how the City of London dealt with a similar catastrophe as far back as 1666. It was indeed a great compliment by one of the most thorough and practical empires of to-day.

The first Act of Parliament that concerns us was passed in 1667 ; it was entitled " An Act for Re-building the City of London." Sec. 35 states that

no buildings were to be erected within 40 feet of the river, from the Tower to the Temple : also that no buildings were to be erected within 40 feet of the centre of the Fleet Ditch : Sec. 39 deals with the disposal of the coal dues of 1s. a ton ; " in the first place " the money had to be paid to owners whose land was taken for enlarging streets and passages, and after they had been paid then " the Residue " was to be employed for the satisfaction of " such Persons whose Grounds shall be employed " for making wharves or keys along the river front on both sides of Bridewell Dock, or Fleet Ditch, and also for erecting prisons. The Bill was introduced on 29 December 1666, and became an Act on 25 February 1667. It is doubtful if the coal dues could have been applied for actually constructing a wharf along the Thames frontage or the Fleet Ditch. Three years later an important Act with 84 sections was passed entitled " An Additional Act for the Rebuilding of the City of London, Uniting of Parishes, and Rebuilding of the Cathedral and Parochial Churches within the said City." Many streets were to be enlarged and buildings restored. The portions of the Act which concern us for the moment commence with Sec. 39 : this states that three-quarters of the money raised between 1 May 1670 and 24 June 1677 at the rate of 2s. a ton on coals was to be spent in rebuilding or restoring the Parish Churches : the fourth part or " residue " to be spent for land taken for " inlarging of the streets, making of wharfs, keys, Publick Market Places," and the money raised after the 24 June 1677 shall be at the rate of 3s. a ton, half being spent on the Churches and the other half for " the giving of satisfaction for Ground set out and employed as aforesaid," and such other public works mentioned in the Act. One quarter of the money allotted to City churches was to be given for the restoration of St. Paul's Cathedral (Sec. 41). Sec. 45 deals with the Quay and the extent is given as from London Bridge to the Temple, but Sec. 45 varies considerably the provisions in the former Act, for the ground along the river front is to remain the property of the proprietors, who must, however, mark their boundaries by " denter stones " in the pavement : a plan had to be made of the whole extent of the quay, approved by the King, and set out before Midsummer 1670 : and Sec. 46 emphasises the fact that the land was *not* to be purchased : for the proprietors were allowed to charge the public

* *History of the Mansion House*, Chap. viii.

who wished to unload any " Goods or Merchandizes " on their land.

Sec. 48 provides that the cost of making Bridewell

the quay from London Bridge to the Temple : this is very different from Sec. 39 of the Act of 1667, which section groups the quay improvements

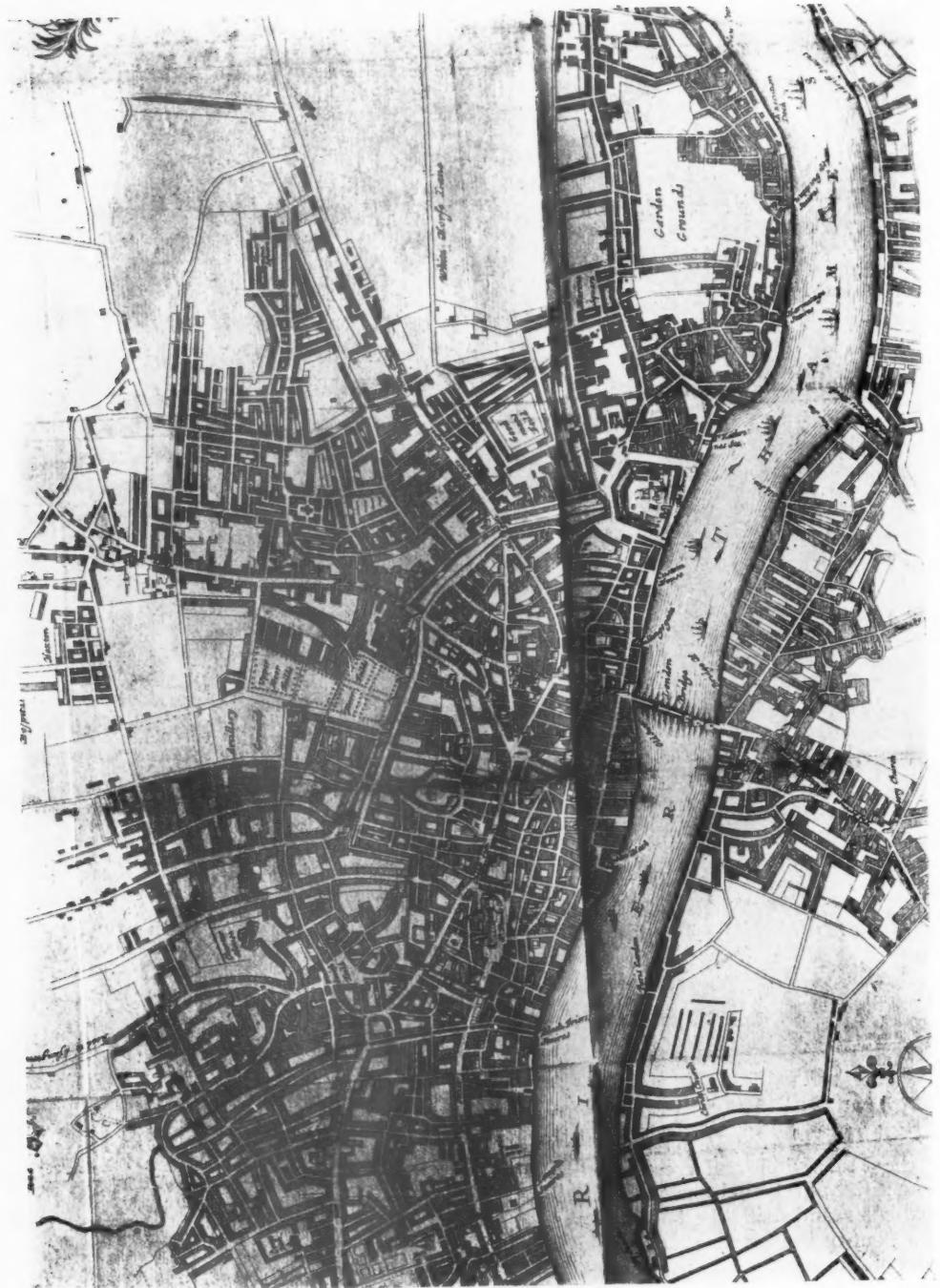
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FROM A CASH BOOK IN THE GUILDHALL LIBRARY

Dock or the Fleet Ditch and erecting wharfs or keys on either side of the ditch shall be defrayed out of the Coal Dues: and shall " be born and first defrayed . . . out of the fourth part " of the Dues, and it is important to note that this does not include

together, and gives no privilege to the Fleet Ditch improvements.

You will note that according to the Act of 1667 the quay was to extend from the Temple to the Tower ; but according to the Act of 1670 it was not to extend



FROM "A NEW VIEW OF LONDON," BY EDWARD HATTON, 1707

further east than London Bridge. It is suggested that during those years the quay was built from London Bridge to the Tower. I doubt it because there is no record of any work done, and the entry of February 1671 quoted below states that Wren reported on the chaotic conditions of affairs generally along the river bank.

It is rather amusing to note with reference to the Act of 1667 the following entries :—

May 16 : Paid Town Clerk for Sir Edward Turner, Speaker of the House of Commons £106 5s.

Paid Sir Richard fforder Knt and Alderman of London for his great services and paines in Parliament about the Additional bill for rebuilding the Citie of London £150.

Laake's Map of 1667 shows by a dotted line the quay as proposed by the Acts of Parliament.

Ogilby and Morgan's Map of 1677 shows the open space which is marked New Key from the Tower westwards as far as Cole Harbor, but further west those words are not used, and the space is marked "Wood Wharfe" or "Wharfe" as far as the Temple.

The map by Lea and Glynne of 1690 shows a narrow footway; Prick's Map of 1667 does not show the 40-ft. quay. The map by Morden and Lea of 1682 shows by an irregular line sites not built upon : in parts less than 40 feet. Overton's Map of 1706 shows a narrow line next the river, west of London Bridge, and buildings divided into rectangular blocks. The map from Hattan's *New View of London*, published in 1708, shows no 40-ft. quay.

As the above maps vary so considerably I turned my attention to old views and show some illustrations from the Crace Collection at the British Museum and from the Guildhall Library and Art Gallery.

A reference to the following Views will show they do not all agree as to a wide quay of 40 feet :—

The view by Hugh Allærts, published about 1686, and altered about 1715.

The views by Sutton Nicholl 1710, and F. B. Werner 1725.

"The South Prospect of the City of London" 1710, and a view "printed and sold by I. Smith" 1720.

The South Prospect of the City of London by Bowles 1732.

Buck's View of 1749.

The Picture of the mouth of the Fleet, etc., showing Dr. Salmon's House, by Samuel Scott (1710-1772) in the Guildhall Art Gallery. Dr. Salmon's House is shown on a view dated 1710.

The Survey Books of Oliver and Mills were kept in a manner that would do credit to any surveyor to-day ; those men were instructed to define over 2,000 properties, in many cases land was cut off to be added to the public roadway, and the owners were paid for this property ; sometimes the private owners were allowed to build over a public roadway so as to make a straight building line, in these cases they paid the Corporation at a similar rate per foot super.

The following is the only plan from the survey books of Oliver and Mills showing land cut off for the quay, it is dated October 1670 : this to me is a significant fact, as the survey books show plans, etc., dealt with by these surveyors of over 80 properties in Thames Street, and the surveys date as late as 1672.

The Committee that dealt with the whole matter was the City Lands Committee, the same Committee which exists to-day for the management of the City's Estates apart from the Markets and certain Trusts : there is an enormous amount of information in the Minutes of that Committee concerning the reconstruction of London after the fire : there are many references to the negotiations for the purchase of properties and the setting out of street widenings. The following extracts from the books commencing 1668 are of interest :—

On 30 April 1669 there is an entry that states some land "was lately staked off for enlargm^t. of ye intended Wharf or Key" at Queenhithe, and there was a dispute as to a boundary of some property, and it states that "his Ma^t having not signified his pleasure touching the Wharfs and Keys" the Committee could "not give any resolution thereon." There are several reports signed by Hooke, Oliver, and Wren.

On 12 May 1669 a man was not allowed to build "until his Majesties pleasure be known touching Keys."

On 30 November 1670 it was decided that, irrespective of locality, all persons who advanced their buildings so as to make the building line level should pay 5s. a foot ; and that all persons who formed vaults under the streets should pay 1d. a foot rent, a rent super in each case.

On 13 January 1671-2 it was agreed at the re-

quest of "Mr. Surveyor genall that this Committee would sett out the ground intended to be granted to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's and which is excepted out of a late grant made to the City for regulating the lyne of the said River mentioned in the said grant to lye between Paules Wharfe and Baynards Castle." This grant I deal with later.

On 24 January 1671-2 it is stated that application was made by the Dean of St. Paul's, and it was agreed that the ground referred to "does extend from the West end of Paules Wharfe Stayers to the East End of Baynards Castle—to be ninety foot in length or thereabouts."

On 3 May 1671 it was decided that the City Lands Committee "intend speedily to sett about and perfect the Water line upon the River of Thames—and that Mr. Hooke doe attend upon Dr. Wren—for his concurrence and advice."

On 4 May 1671 it was decided "the City Surveyors doe attend Dr. Wren . . . with the designe or draught of the Waterline by them prepared and the Wharfe to bee thereupon—Which works will be the better and more easily accomplished by employing the soyl and rubbish to be taken up at Fleet-ditch."

On 10 July 1671 it was decided the City Surveyors should "attend Dr. Wren Surveyor Genal . . . and find out the old Stakes sett out pursuant to the Act of Parliam^t for the lyne of the Wharfes and keyes from the Temple to London Bridge and to ascertain the same to be described on a vellum draught and chiefly from Bridewell Docks to Puddell docke . . . and it is further ordered that the right hon^{ble} the Lord Maior be desired to attend his Ma^{ty} before he leaves Windsor together with Dr. Wren and Mr. Hooke with this order; to the end a warrant may be obtayned under the greate seale for his Ma^{ts} appbacon of the said Water lyne."

On 15 May 1672 Wren made a report suggesting a wharf 200 feet long on each side of the Fleet stream; and gave such particulars of the construction, and it is stated "the report being here read was well liked and approved," and Fitch was appointed the Contractor, the payment was to be fixed from time to time by "his Ma^{ties} and the Cities Surveyors with the City Bricklayer."

There are constant references to Thomas Fitch the contractor, the method of doing the work, and details of quite trivial matters concerning the Fleet Ditch.

On 6 June 1672 the minutes state that "the Comptroller should receive out of the Chamber upon the Cole-account 100 Guinny's and carry them to the Lodgings of the sd. X^{her} Wren and there make a present of them to him."

They started work early in those days; appointments were at 8 o'clock and Committees met at 9.

On 17 July 1672 the Committee decided to "take a view of the Waterline, and consider the best methods and expedients for the opening a wharfe according to the designe, and description thereof," and the City Surveyors were ordered to attend them and that "if it shall be thought requisite that Dr. Wren be intreated to afford his presence and assistance," and they also had to consider a claim for damage by rubbish, and consider payment when the Wharf should be enlarged.

On 21 July 1672 Sir Thomas Draper asked "what use they would put the new key intended according to the waterline." He was informed the matter was being considered, but it had evidently not been decided at that date.

An important entry is dated 11 September 1672. An application was made by Sir Richard Piggot for payment for "ground cut off for the making of the key," a note states it was the first application for payment that the Committee had received, and the applicant asked for further time to consider the matter.

On 18 September 1672 the Committee decided "that persons interested or prejudiced by the new Key on the North side of the Thames have notice that the Committee are ready to treat with them for their satisfaction according to Act of Parliament." They also decided upon "the answering his Majestys expectations and their own purposes touching the new key."

On 2 October 1672 it was agreed to pay a claimant 4s. a foot for land in Pudding Lane and 5s. a foot in Thames Street: 5s. a foot was the usual price for land in the City, and it varied little according to position, so greatly contrary to the value to-day.

On 31 October 1672 it was decided to consult "some of the wood mongers and lightermen" as Sir Thomas Draper intended to complain to the King of "undue proceedings and false suggestions . . . concerning the affair of the Water-line."

On 20 November 1672 it was "Ordered that Mr. James Newland shall with the first of that nature receive satisfaction for his ground certified to be

cutt for making the new wharfe on the North side of the River Thames."

On 15 January 1672-3 it was "ordered that Mr. Chamblen and the Comptroller prepare some Queries and attend Mr. Attorney Generall for his advice in and concerning the Waterline and the Wharfing thereof between London Bridge and the Temple and take his opinion whether the same may be performed and the charge of ground taken in and the Making of the Wharfing etc may be borne and defrayed out of the residue of Coal-money by the Generall words in the Act for Rebuilding."

On March 18 1673-4 it was decided "Sir Richard Piggot and Mr. Hory, Rector of St. Magnus Church who have this day appeared here for satisfaction for ground to be laid open for the making of the New Wharfe on the North side of the River of Thames shall be the first persons dispatched when this Committee are ready for the consideration of that affair."

On 6 May 1674 there is an important entry as follows: "It is agreed that when satisfaction shall be given for ground laid open for the public wharfe on the North side of the River of Thames Captain Bagg who this day presented his certificate be considered among the first that receive satisfaction."

On 28 July 1675 there is a very vague minute with regard to a claim for land and buildings apparently at the juncture of the Fleet ditch with the Thames, for part of the claim no allowance was made "there having none here given to anyone for ground of that nature," this is probably a part of the proposed Quay along the Thames; but the minute also states "that there was built on the ground since the fire a house of 2 stories of the breadth of 14 feet and length of 30 feet which was by public order taken down for the making of the Key, for which consideration and because the land lies next the Thames and is upon the new Channel that hath yet been satisfied for, is as reasonable to allow for the inheritance £1330." If the house had been erected contrary to the Act of Parliament it had to be removed and no compensation was payable, but the order states there was a saving for the wharfing evidently along the Fleet ditch.

Then there is a valuable entry on 19 June 1678 as follows:

"Mr. Eliot this day claiming satisfaction for 1120 foot of ground part of the forty foot laid on the North side of the river of Thames a Certificate whereof was here read subscribed by Mr. Robert

Hooke. It is agreed And ordered that when payments are made for such ground he also shall receive satisfaction."

Again on 20 November 1678 a Mr. Hammond made a claim, no amount is mentioned. It was decided the "claym at his desire was here received and entered."

The following notes are taken from the Repetories, or Minutes, of the Court of Aldermen between the years 1666 and 1680:

On 8 June 1670 the surveyors were instructed to advise Dr. Wren for setting out the water line for building upon the Thames and on each side of Bridewell Dock.

On 21 June 1670 the surveyors brought into the Alderman's Court "a draft of the waterline and line of buildings" and it was approved and directed to be presented to His Majesty: and on approval it was "to be staked and set out accordingly."

On 21 February 1670-1 there is a long entry quoting the additional Act of Parliament and stating that the eight months referred to had expired and that according to the report of "Christopher Wren Esq. . . . made to His Majesty" the distance of 40 feet from the river is "yet everywhere enclosed and incumbered with Pales or Brickwalls irregular houses and buildings Piles of Timber Billets Fagotts and heapes of coles many boarded sheds and several great Laystalls and that the old Towers of Baynards Castle are yet standing upon the Wharfe. Likewise that the Cranes are generally very unhandsome being greater than necessary and boarded down to the ground with warehouses under them," and it was ordered that the buildings, etc., should be removed forthwith so as to "avoid his Majesties displeasure and the utmost penalties of the said Act," and it further stated that the owners of the land "may for satisfaction apply themselves to the Committee for Letting City Lands . . . and shall upon treaty and agreement . . . and by such other means as by the said Act of Parliament is provided and directed in his behalf receive satisfaccon accordingly as their said ground is impaired or lessened in value."

On 27 June 1672 it was decided that a jury should assess the amount to be awarded to two claimants for land on the west side of Fleet ditch.

On 12 June 1673 there was a petition to the Court of Aldermen from the owners and others "on the North side of the Thames representing the great damage they are likely to sustain by having their

ground laid open within 40 feet of the said river . . . they not having received satisfaction and desire the assistance of the Court . . . this court did not think it convenient to interfere in the matter, but will assist them to petition his Majesty."

On 6 May 1674 is an entry that no one had received any compensation for the land taken for the quay.

On 30 June 1674 it was ordered that the Recorder and others should accompany the Lord Mayor to "attend a committee of Lords to-morrow . . . touching . . . the business of opening the wharfe upon the River's side."

On 14 January 1674-5 it was decided that those proprietors who had not complied with the Act were to be summoned to appear before the Court of Aldermen on the following Tuesday.

In October 1675 a Jury was empanelled and applicants received £738 11s. 3d. for their interest in property laid into the channel of the Fleet ditch.

On 19 June 1678 there is an entry to the effect no one had been paid for land laid into the quay.

In January 1681 it is recorded that "divers very worthy citizens" were pressing their claims for ground taken at the mouth of the Fleet ditch.

In the Account Books for Receipts and Payments of Coal Money between March 1670 and August 1678 there are over 130 entries for payments in connection with the Fleet ditch.

In the Minutes of the City Lands Committee between the years 1667 and 1668 there are over fifty references to the Fleet Ditch.

In the Repetories of the Court of Aldermen there are several references to the Fleet Ditch.

On 9 November 1681 Sir Richard Pigott and others demanded satisfaction for their land taken for the quay, it was decided to consider every claim, and the Comptroller was ordered to prepare a case for Counsel's advice as to liability and report to the Committee.

On 16 November 1681 the Chamberlain informed the Committee "that the Cole money is overcharged already," the Comptroller and Mr. Recorder to advise "upon the whole matter."

On 10 December 1681 it was decided that in the case of any future demands "the demanders be acquainted there is not money sufficient to answer their said demands," and "that no warrants be granted for the said ground" until certain claims be fully satisfied in other directions.

If the people who suffered considered they had

any legal claim, they could have taken action against the Corporation, and the damages would have been assessed by a Jury, as in the cases with regard to the Fleet river.

From "An Acct of Moneys paid by several orders of the Committee for Ground taken away for and for building several public works" I have extracted amounts from 19 March 1667 to January 1680 and, during this period of about thirteen years I find 162 entries for payments in connection with property purchased and work executed to the Fleet ditch, the whole sum being £76,300. Interesting item included in this amount is an entry on 7 June 1672: "Paid Joseph Lane Esq. Comptroler of the Chamber 100 pieces of Guinny Gold to present Dr. Christopher Wren his Majties Surveyor by order dated the 6th June 1672 for his extraordinary service relating to the building of this City £107 10s." This was in consequence of the Order of the City Lands Committee quoted above. And on 19 December 1673 there is another entry: "Paid Dr. Christopher Wren £100 of new gold by order dated 18 Dec. 1673 presented unto him by the City of London as a grateful acknowledgement of his great care and trouble in supervising of Fleet channel and the Waterline and other public works of this City which at 21s. 8d. comes unto £108 6s. 8d." The contractor for the work to the Fleet Ditch was Mr. Thomas Fitch, and on 20 October 1674 is a note that his account was £51,307 6s. 2d., and it was agreed as correct; this was a very large sum of money in the seventeenth century. I also find that on 9 August 1672 Thomas Cartwright was paid £312 "for making the bridge and stairs over Fleet Ditch." The work was evidently finished about April 1676, for payment was made at that time for the rails and posts at the side of the channel.

I now come to an important document dated 4 December 1671, and entitled "Letters Patents confirming the Design for making an open Wharfe forty feet wide on the North side of the River Thames between London Bridge and the Temple and directing that no Buildings should be erected within that distance from the River." I have reason to believe that this document has never been made public; it is signed "By Writt of Privy Seal—Pigott," and has the great seal. It refers to the Act of 1670 stating "a Key or Public and open Wharfe" had to be formed, and buildings set back 40 feet from the river front, and that "Bounds of each Proprietors Ground . . . should be distinguished by

Denter Stones to be placed in the pavement" and that the line of the whole Key or Wharfe should be ascertained by Direction of the Lord Mayor, etc., refers to cranes, etc., to be allowed within the 40 feet, and that a plan had to be submitted by the 20th Day of June following the passing of the Act. It states the Corporation had "presented to us a model form or Draught of the said Key . . . so designed and appointed to be made" and the plan is annexed. The letters patents also decide that "our

scale is 50 feet to the inch: it was submitted to Dr. Wren in draft in May 1671. This plan marks the various stairs and details not shown on any map that I have seen, and the scale is much larger than those maps; it shows the plan in outline of Baynard's Castle partly destroyed by the fire, the mouth of the Fleet ditch is called "Bridewell Dock," the encroachments on to the river being as much as 30 feet for some distance, and for short distances much more: this plan is in a splendid



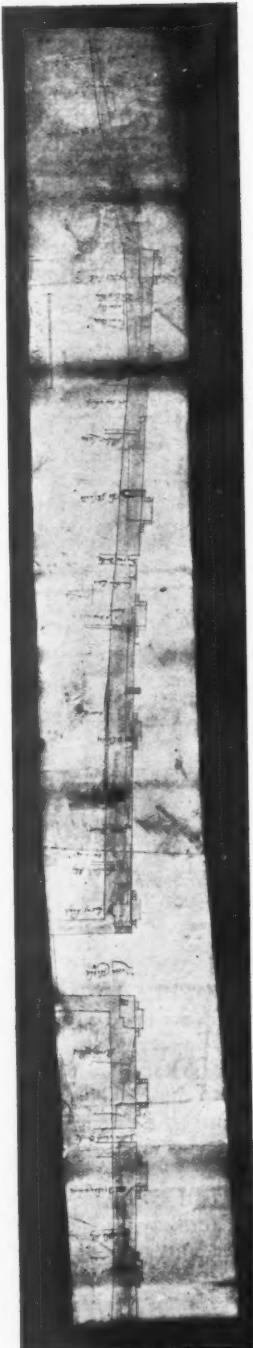
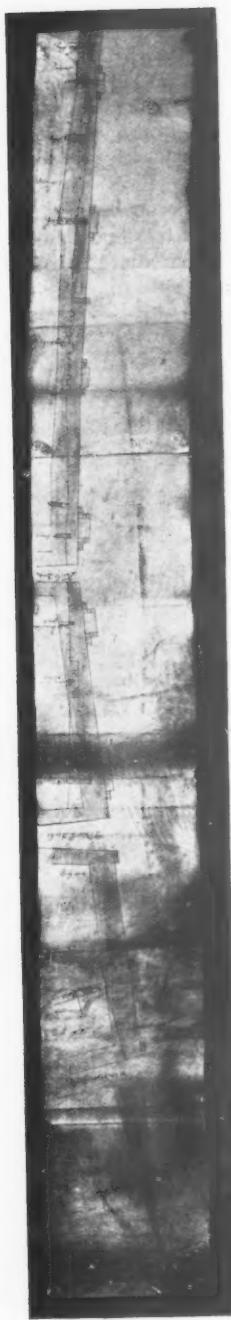
FRONT SHEET OF LETTERS PATENTS DATED 4 DECEMBER 1671

Ground and Soil . . . may be taken out of our said River of Thames . . . to make the said Line between London Bridge and the Temple . . . uniform and regular . . . according to the said Modell fform and Draught . . . annexed," the said soil to become the property of the Corporation except between Paul's Wharf and Baynards Castle." The whole document is exceedingly interesting, but perhaps the most interesting part is a plan of the frontage of the Thames from London Bridge to the Temple made in 1671; it is over 8 feet long, the

state of preservation and must be one of the largest scale plans in existence of that date.*

It does not agree with the Ogilby and Morgan map and a comparison is very interesting, for Ogilby and Morgan show the suggested quay according to the letters patents was not constructed. The river frontage and steps as they existed are clearly shown on the plan, and also the proposed frontage encroaching on the river and new landing steps.

* There are documents referring to the above at the Public Record Office. S:P:Dom: Chas. II. Vol. 293, Nos: 38-41.



PLAN OF THE RIVER FRONT APPENDED TO THE LETTERS PATENTS
DATED 4 DECEMBER 1671

I have applied the line to the present Ordnance Map, a little adjustment was necessary with regard to the bend of the river, but the plan fitted in very well and must have been carefully measured : the plan and document are worth careful study, and a typewritten copy of the latter and a facsimile of the plan will be deposited in our Library.

To make the Quay as designed considerable encroachment on to the river must have been made. The contractor for the Fleet Ditch for a length of over 200 feet was paid over £51,000, so we see at once the cost of the Thames Embankment scheme would have been colossal ; no payment is recorded for purchasing property in connection with the scheme, or for making the quay, but several items of expenditure are recorded for improving the docks and quay adjoining, as provided in the Act of 1670.

The entries in the minutes of the City Lands Committee, etc., indicate the improvements contemplated were national rather than merely local ; the King was the final authority and not the Corporation : there are frequent references to Dr. Wren, or "Mr. Surveyor general." The City Surveyors were instructed to discuss their ideas for the line of quay with Dr. Wren and satisfy him before submitting the plan to His Majesty. Questions concerning the erection of buildings within 40 feet of the river were not dealt with by the Corporation ; they were delayed in order to ascertain His Majesty's decision. Dr. Wren, His Majesty's Surveyor, prepared the Fleet Ditch scheme. Dr. Wren applied to the King with reference to "an alleged encroachment on the 40 ft. wharf or space" by the Fishmongers' Company. The Court of Aldermen having received a petition for payment for land within the 40 feet boundary "did not think it convenient to interfere in the matter," but promised to assist the applicant to petition His Majesty. The King was to fix the scale of tolls for landing goods ; the encroachment by the Fishmongers' Company was dealt with by His Majesty, who allowed it to remain as shown by the maps of Ogilby and Morgan ; and so on.

The Corporation acted with the greatest care in the matter, for we have seen that in January 1673 they consulted the Attorney General, in June 1674 the Lord Mayor and Recorder attended a Committee of the House of Lords, and in November 1681 the Comptroller and Recorder again ad-

vised "on the whole matter," they evidently were not certain if they were liable for the land taken, etc., and the Act is not very clear ; but whatever the opinion was, no one had been paid up to 19 June 1678 ; there is a definite entry on that date, and I can find no entry at a later date.

The maps subsequent to that of Ogilby and Morgan show encroachments on the space of 40 feet, but we have also seen that other plans and many views about the same date or slightly later do not show a clear space of 40 feet from the Temple to London Bridge ; but apart from the question of fact, and considering the Act of 1670 and the document referred to above, what an illogical and immoral proposal it was : The Corporation had to compensate all owners whose property was taken to enlarge the public streets, but when a public quay was to be formed the Corporation were not directed to purchase the property and the unfortunate owners apparently were not entitled to receive one penny compensation ; all they were allowed to do was to mark the boundaries of their own property on their own ground. Much good that would have been to them, for their land would have been about as valuable as the portions of the pavement you see marked off by a line of metal in Bond Street. We know the owners expected compensation, and it is clear the Corporation was sympathetic, for in June 1673 the Court of Aldermen offered to assist these unfortunate persons to petition the King. Not only were the people who owned property facing the river practically to lose the value of the land in question, but the value of the remainder of the property was to be diminished enormously because of the removal of the river front line of any new warehouses to 40 feet from the river front. Again, 40 feet is a good depth for a building plot, and there must have been many cases where the property was only slightly more than 40 feet and that property would be practically useless ; then, no doubt, there were many properties of 40 feet or less in depth whose owners were to be quite ruined ; imagine a man owning a warehouse of perhaps some 100 or more feet of river frontage, with a depth of 30 to 40 feet, being told that he would not be allowed to rebuild, that he would receive no compensation, that his land was to be subject to a public right of way ; and that all he might expect for his income from the property would be some tolls, limited by official scale, which he might be paid if anyone should chance to want to deliver goods on the land

which was previously occupied by his warehouse. Is it to be wondered at that those unfortunate citizens faced with such a calamity should complain bitterly to the Corporation, and that the Corporation should decide to help them in an appeal to the King? But there is no record that their appeal was favourably considered, and faced with such a calamity they decided to rebuild on their own land and risk it; it was done gradually, small inexpensive buildings were first erected, there was no objection on behalf of His Majesty, and the Corporation, after taking the opinion of the Attorney-General, took no action. In the history of the Fishmongers' Company by William Herbert, it states that plans for a new building were prepared in 1667; in May 1669 it is recorded that Wren had "applied to know the King's pleasure, respecting an alleged encroachment on the 40 feet wharf or space which was to be left between the Thames bank and the new buildings." These were completed in June 1671, and the buildings were allowed to be erected on the old site. The encroachment is shown on Ogilby and Morgan's Map.

Even supposing the Corporation had possessed power to compensate the applicants, they had no money for that purpose: the trustees for the coal collection had to borrow considerable sums of money to keep going: between March 1667 and June 1675 they borrowed £99,780 from other funds of the Corporation, and between December 1671 and January 1677-8 they borrowed £102,465 from private persons. The funds of the Corporation were in a most unsatisfactory condition; indeed, at one time the Corporation was almost ruined—the King, by the way, had borrowed £107,000!

As late as 19 June 1682 a petition 50 pages long, which I have examined, was addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and others, stating the owners of several pieces of ground used for making a wharf had not been compensated; the petitioners asked that the Mayor and Corporation should be summoned by "subpena" to give an account of their action, but nothing further is recorded: evidently the Chancellor of the Exchequer took no action.

According to Letters Patents a considerable amount of area was to be taken out of the river to form the quay; a length of about 90 feet run was to become the property of St. Paul's Cathedral authorities, and the remainder was to become the

property of the Corporation. The Corporation owns no strip of land along the river front, and as far as I can ascertain, neither do the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. I need hardly remind you that such property would be of enormous value to-day.

Let us for a moment consider the scheme for a quay. We have seen it could not have been wanted by the owners of the warehouses, and that it could not have been used as a thoroughfare, the old maps show that there were many stairs for landing goods, and the quay would have been inconvenient even for local pedestrian traffic, being encumbered with cranes, ropes, etc. Wren's idea was different: the waterfront was to be used partly for the Halls of City Companies, the character of the whole river front being altered. But under the Act of 1670, and as stated in the document I have the honour to submit to-night, it was clearly intended that buildings facing the river should be of the warehouse class; that being so, it was obviously a bad arrangement to erect your warehouses 40 feet from the river and so increase enormously the labour of loading and unloading barges. The proper place for a warehouse is flush with the water line.

With regard to the Act of 1821, said to have been promoted and passed to "whitewash" the Corporation, the Act is very short, and is entitled "An Act to repeal so much of an Act of the twenty-second year of His Majesty King Charles the Second, as restrains the Proprietors of wharfs between London Bridge and the Temple from erecting any Buildings or Enclosures thereon." I tried to find a Parliamentary report in the public press and could not do so: but I found the particulars I wanted in the Minutes of the City Lands Committee.

On 28 February 1821 the Remembrancer called attention to the fact that a Mr. Charles Calvert had given notice to introduce the Bill: people interested for or against the Bill were heard by the City Lands Committee, which decided to oppose it, and on application by the Corporation, Parliament adjourned the consideration of the Bill; this enabled the Corporation to draw up a petition against it, and the Committee voted a sum not exceeding £200 for expenses to be incurred to carry out their views. In spite of the opposition of the Corporation the Bill was passed; and the Corporation eventually spent £1,090 8s. 11d. in their fruitless attempt to oppose a Bill which it is suggested was promoted with a

view to " whitewash " them. Incidentally I might mention that I have examined a schedule of " wharves and ground on the Thames side " compiled about the end of the seventeenth century, and the Corporation owned very little property in that neighbourhood.

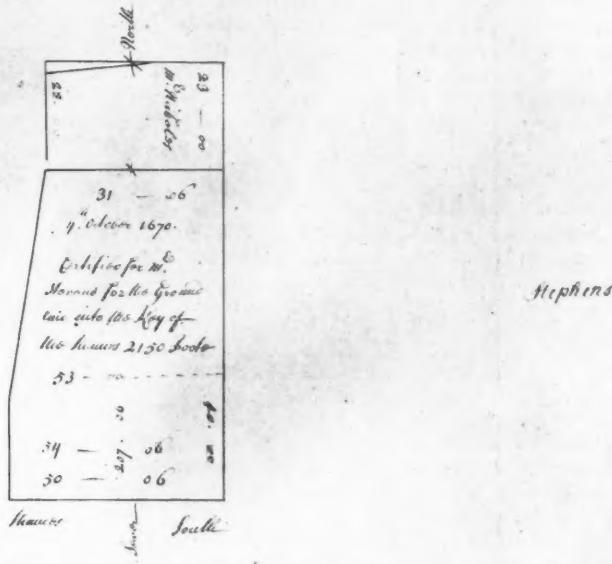
I do not pretend to have solved the whole mystery concerning the quay, but I hope I have been able to add some information on the subject; and I submit

for your consideration the fact that the quay as defined in the letters patent was never built; also that it is very doubtful if a clear space of 40 feet was ever formed from the water line, for the whole length of the river frontage; and lastly that the Corporation acted throughout in a fair and proper spirit, bearing in mind the best interests of the citizens at the end of the seventeenth century, just as they always did, and do to-day.

64

M. Robert Weddige

Weddinge



The Demise of an Acre from Mr. to Mr. to build upon the same - Austin
in front river a foot two further either more or less east and west and in depth

THE ONLY PLAN SHOWING A SITE TO BE DEALT WITH FOR THE QUAY
DATED 4 OCTOBER 1670

(Discussion on Mr. Perks's Paper overleaf.)

Discussion

THE PRESIDENT (MR. J. ALFRED GOTCH) IN THE CHAIR

Dr. PHILIP NORMAN, F.S.A. : It is my pleasing task to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Sydney Perks for his admirable Paper. I have known Mr. Perks for many years, and whilst we all thank him for his Paper to-night we also owe him a debt of gratitude for the valuable and enlightened work he has done, both as a writer and as an architect, in recording and preserving old London. He has done most valuable work at the Guildhall. Up till the time that he took up the study of the Guildhall, the crypt of that splendid building was in a neglected state, and very little was known about it. Under the Great Hall there is a crypt, which is divided into two parts by a mediæval wall. The eastern part Mr. Perks took in hand, cleared it of excrescences and from the additions which had been made to its detriment, and put it in perfect order. It is now an extraordinary example of early fifteenth century architecture. He carried out the work in the most conservative spirit. The western part had been very much damaged by the Great Fire, and it was necessary to make various supports in brick, and so on. Very little was known about it, but through Mr. Perks's studies the fact was ascertained that it was of the same date as the eastern part. It was impossible to clear that of excrescences ; it still remains, and is in a sound condition. Through his knowledge and his studies, we know that the whole of that structure dates from benefactions of Richard Witton about the years 1411-1423. Again, in the splendid hall above, which had been very much injured by the fire and which had been badly restored again and again, he has made various discoveries and various improvements. One now sees that the building was all of the same date, between 1411 and 1423, and all that could be shown of the Witton work in the Great Hall is now in a satisfactory condition.

Within the last two or three years Mr. Perks has written a most interesting book about the Mansion House, which not only tells us about the moderately interesting building designed by the elder Dance, but also a great deal about what had previously existed on the site and in the district generally.

Coming to the main subject of his Paper, I am greatly interested in the Thames Embankment and in the River and the confines of the City, and what knowledge I had of it, until Mr. Perks read his Paper to-night, I had derived from the study of old maps, and from reading Wren's *Parentalia*, a passage from which I would like to read to you. Most of you know of Wren's plan, and of Evelyn's plan, and Hooke's plan. Evelyn was an accomplished amateur, and one does not think very much of his plan ; but

Wren had been appointed Surveyor-General to Charles II, and his plan bears considerable weight. *Parentalia* was written by his son, Christopher Wren, and was published by his grandson. He says : " This plan was laid before the King and the House of Commons. Among other things, he advised making a commodious quay from Blackfriars to the Tower and uniting the halls of the twelve chief companies in a square annexed to Guildhall. This plan was laid before the King and the House of Commons ; all material objections were fully weighed and answered. The insurmountable difficulty was the obstinate averseness of the citizens to alter their own properties." That says nothing against the Corporation : it merely says the citizens clung to their properties, which was natural enough.

Mr. Perks has given us so many statistics that it is impossible to grasp and discuss all the details. What specially interested me was that splendid deed bearing the portrait of Charles II, and the plan, eight feet long. But I feel that that plan, with a line drawn 40 feet from the river, was a counsel of perfection. The plan of Ogilby and Morgan, dated 1677, bears great weight ; one regards it as the first detailed plan of London which is fairly accurate ; and though there is no sign of a regular 40-foot open space, there is a line of irregular open space generally. Again, in regard to the views Mr. Perks showed, I confess I have not been able to get a clear idea from them as regards accuracy. They give the appearance of the buildings, but I have not made out any details in them as regards a 40-foot quay which was to have been made. In the map of 1746, by Rocque, there is shown considerable open space along the river front, and here and there it is called " The Quay," but there is no continuous open space. Mr. Perks mentioned that in the 1671 document Barnard's Castle broke the line of the quay. Other buildings broke the line, such as the steelyards, which, I think, ran down to the river. I do not think there is any likelihood of there having been a continuous quay along which people could walk. Mr. Perks has got together a surprising amount of information, and it is clear to me that an honest attempt was made to construct a quay ; but it was not successful.

If I may venture to do so, I will add a few words which are not relevant to the paper, concerning the line of the river before the Great Fire. To begin with, no doubt in early times the river came up further than it does now ; it came up to the foot of the two hills which were divided by the Wall-brook, that is, the hill on which St. Paul's stands and Corn-hill. Then the Romans came, and the City became a most im-

portant trading centre, and it was a good many years afterwards that they enwalled it. The wall seems to have run along the line of Thames Street. When they enwalled it one does not know what happened. They had various havens, at the mouth of the Wallbrook, and at the mouth of the Fleet, for instance ; I do not know whether already Queenhithe was there. They managed to trade somehow, probably in havens along the river. But there has been a recent discovery which is interesting. A splendid gold medallion has just been found in France, near Arras, which shows Claudius, the Roman Emperor, advancing across a bridge—evidently across the Thames—to a walled city, or rather, to a fortified gate ; and the date is 296 A.D. The coin is marked "Londinium" ; and we know, therefore, that London was enwalled as early as the year 296 A.D. That breaks down the theory which many people hold, that it was enwalled at the end of the Roman occupation. In the mediæval city, inlets, such as at Queenhithe and Billingsgate, were very important, and much of the trade was done in those havens and at the mouth of the Wallbrook. The wall had disappeared before the time of Henry II.

I have rather shirked the question of analysing Mr. Perks's Paper, which is very difficult ; but I shall study it at my leisure, and I am sure I am expressing your wish when I ask you to thank Mr. Perks cordially for what he has given you.

Mr. DELISSA JOSEPH [F.] : I am certain that we all greatly appreciate the large amount of study and thought which Mr. Perks has brought to bear on his Paper ; it would be presumptuous on the part of an ordinary member of this Institute to attempt to criticise that work ; it remains for us only to admire his energy and his ingenuity, and to listen with deep interest to the illuminating results he has produced and illustrated. But the part of his paper that has appealed to me individually, and must appeal also to many of you here, is what one may call the picture which he has incidentally shown us of the life of the times. The picture he has drawn for us of the immortal Wren, busy in his numerous activities, ready at the call of duty, leaned upon, as is obvious from the records, by all those in authority as the final arbiter in matters not only of taste, but of judgment. That little picture of the great architect as a leader of men has a peculiar appeal, because it makes one reflect how well it would be if, in these days, the architect was received in the larger world as a leader of men. I think I am right in saying that the picture of the architect as leader of his community is enjoyed in many Continental countries, and I hope that, with the growth of public interest in architecture, the time is not far distant when, in this country, the architect may take his place as an important factor, not only in the pursuit of his profession, but as a guide and counsellor in the affairs of the nation.

When one gets on to the subject of Wren, one is naturally inclined to be somewhat diffuse, but I cannot help taking the opportunity of expressing a thought which has so often passed through my mind. How happy Wren was, not merely in his work and in his achievement, but in the completeness of his life ! When you study the lives of the great architects and recall the many cases of men who have not lived to see the completion of their work, of men who have broken down under the stress of their great works, of men who have completed their work, like Poelaert, the architect of the Brussels Palace of Justice, and in the reaction have killed themselves, and when you think of the picture which I recall, of Wren in his old age driving leisurely from his country retreat into the heart of London and, seated in his carriage, remaining in the Churchyard to look up and enjoy the completion of his great monument, one cannot help feeling how happy and how fortunate he was in his times. It is true that he was not able to do all that he sought to do ; there is the striking illustration given us by Mr. Perks, of the presentation of his great scheme for the laying out of London as a new city, when, as Mr. Perks tells us, that noble and comprehensive scheme, that work of genius, as it was, was considered and discarded within three short days !

Another point of interest which Mr. Perks brought out brings us down to a more recent date—and that is the very interesting fact, which is new to most of us, that the Japanese Government recently asked for information from the Corporation with regard to the 1666 Fire, so that they might study the procedure in connection with the recent disasters in Japan. That is not only a striking tribute to the methods of this country in dealing with a catastrophe of a similar character ; it is an extraordinarily interesting link between the two periods, between a comparatively remote period of our civilisation and that of a more recent development of the great Oriental nation.

With regard to the work of Mr. Perks, I would like to say this : That every man has it within his power to illumine the office he holds ; that if he throws his mind into his work with enthusiasm, energy and originality, he can lift the work on which he is engaged to a high plane. Mr. Perks is distinguished as the City Surveyor, but he has so illumined his work, as was shown by the last speaker, by his investigations in the neighbourhood of the Guildhall, and by the publication of learned works bearing on the history of the City, that there appears to be every probability of his going down to future generations not only as a great City Surveyor, but as a great City historian. I have much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to him.

MR. W. R. DAVIDGE [F.] : I would like to add my tribute of appreciation of the valuable contribution

which Mr. Perks has made to the history of the City in this interesting investigation. To my mind, the loss of the public quay is one of the greatest tragedies in the history of London City, and how it was lost has not been made clear, even by Mr. Perks's lucid illustrations. We should feel very indebted to him for the painstaking research he has made, particularly in the period between 1666 and 1680, but between that and 1820 there is a great gap, to which Mr. Perks will no doubt direct his attention in the next few years, if he has not already done so. But his line of research points to the necessity of going further even than the City archives ; it is necessary to go to Whitehall and find out what happened there with regard to this public quay. It is obvious, whatever the cost, and however it was lost, this public quay was set out, and was lost to the citizens of London, not suddenly, but gradually over a period of 150 years, simply through want of co-operation between the Government Department and the municipal authorities. It emphasises once again that in essential matters of this sort there must be co-operation between the central authority and the local authority. It is also obvious—and one cannot help feeling sympathetic towards the Corporation—that when the City finances were so strained as they must have been, they had the boldness to carry out what was to have been a big improvement in connection with the Fleet. To my mind, if they intended to do the river frontage, they only adjourned the case to a little later period, hoping they would be able to tap some of the Government funds. But there is no doubt that the whole of the people in authority in those years were in favour of the reservation of a public quay throughout the City, as map after map shows, and that line is shown to be consistently disappearing little by little from 1670 to 1821. I do not think anyone would suggest that the whitewashing in 1821 was to be applied to the City Corporation ; whoever was guilty, it was not the City Corporation. The people of London lost the public quay, which they had had, in whole or in part, for 150 years, and I think that, again, serves to emphasise the necessity not only of co-operation between Government and municipality, but also the need of keeping close watch on what we have in the way of public improvements. For many years we had wooden buildings in many of our public parks, and we might have lost the parks if there had not been an outcry against them. It is necessary to have a fine plan, but it is equally necessary to have a public opinion which will enable you to keep that plan in working order.

It is unusual for us to have a Paper of such rich archaeological interest, and if it is read in conjunction with Mr. Perks's previous Paper here, we shall be able to appreciate some of the struggles which the citizens of London had in the years succeeding the Fire, and

we shall realise something of the big spirit which they showed in the greatest calamity which has befallen London. We may learn a lesson on the way in which we should tackle our smaller problems, with boldness, and trust to our successors to carry out our proposals which are being projected even now.

MR. MAURICE E. WEBB [F.] : May I, also, add my thanks to Mr. Perks for his interesting Paper ? I am afraid I look upon it not from the archaeological point of view, but from the standpoint of the future, from Mr. Davidge's angle. It is a great object-lesson to have heard of the struggles which the City of London had at a very difficult period, in which they attempted to develop their river front. We are about to go through a similar experience within the next hundred years in connection with the south side of the river. We must do something with it, and I hope the tragic story Mr. Perks has told us will not be repeated in the future. It is from that point of view I wish to thank Mr. Perks, for showing these gaps and all the failures our ancestors experienced. If architects will band together, do what Mr. Davidge suggests, and get public opinion to realise what is going to happen to London, we shall succeed. But if the public are apathetic and do not take some trouble, we shall have the same failures on the south side of the river as there have been on the north. The south side has its difficulties, its warehouses and its wharves, just the same as London had at the earlier period ; but if we can get a comprehensive scheme, and the County Council, the City Corporation, and the other big bodies will tackle the question, something can be done. Waterloo Bridge is tumbling in, the traffic of London is all to pieces, and Westminster Bridge is said to be unsafe. I venture to hope that the lesson which Mr. Perks has preached to-night will be taken to heart by Londoners to-day.

LADY COOPER : I agree with the last speaker that it is too late to do anything with the north bank. That beautiful stretch from Blackfriars Bridge to the Tower would have made a magnificent frontage, but it is now too late. But we have the south side, and we should benefit by past experience. I have never seen any illustrations of the period before the Great Fire. How they managed to get hold of the river frontage when building the Victoria Embankment, I do not know. It must have cost a large sum of money, and there must have been tremendous difficulties in constructing that monument of good taste. We have the same kind of work before us, and if Mr. Perks will kindly compose a scheme, or the County Council and the City Corporation will co-operate, it will be carried through, for when they have done so, the result will be a marked success. I can point to one instance, Shadwell Park, a most beautiful open space for children. It took years to accomplish, but when

the Corporation and the County Council combined, it supplied a proof of what I have said. I hope the same spirit will be shown in connection with the south bank.

GENERAL SIR TALBOT HOBBS (Fellow of the Institute of Architects of Western Australia) : May I first say how very much I appreciate the great privilege that I have enjoyed in being with you this evening and in listening to this interesting lecture ? Of course you may say that it may not be of the same interest to people coming from ten or eleven thousand miles across the seas as it is to the people living in this great City of London ; but I assure you that interest in this country, in this great City, is probably almost as great in the overseas Dominions as it is with yourselves. I assure you, further, that the various schemes for the improvement of this City, and of the Garden City development of this country, are most carefully watched by your kindred beyond the seas, and that what you have done here has been a very great object-lesson to us in Australia in trying to avoid the mistakes which have been made in the past. Unfortunately, the tendency with us in the cities, which are gradually becoming very big places in Australia, is to fall into the errors which people in the past fell into in this country, through want of co-operation and co-ordination. But still, we are learning something, and I think this great Exhibition at Wembley will be an education to us in many things. It is now some years since I was last in London—just after the war—and what has impressed me more than anything else since I came here a few days ago is the enormous increase in the traffic of your streets ; and I wonder, if it increases in the same proportion during the next

few years, how you will cope with it. Certainly the provision of bridges or the widening of streets for relieving it will have to be made, though I would not presume to say how.

I did not come here with the idea of speaking, but I wanted to tell you how very much I appreciate your kindness in inviting me, and how much pleasure it will give the people in Australia to know that you have honoured me in this way.

The Chairman proposed the vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

MR. SYDNEY PERKS [F.] (in reply) said : I have been considering this subject, on and off, for quite fifteen years, and I did not want to weary you by making the Paper too long ; I assure you it is boiled down from a large heap of MSS. The most interesting thing, I think, is that we have now an actual survey of the river front made by Oliver and Mills, the City Surveyors, and checked by Wren, and no doubt absolutely correct ; and you can see that plan on the wall here. And since those Letters Patent with the Great Seal of England were deposited with the Corporation, I believe they have never been seen by the public. With regard to *Parentalia*, and the remarks made about Wren in that book, I dealt with those in my previous Paper ; they must not be taken as correct, if you do not mind my saying so. They were written by a very enthusiastic son, and the book was published by an even more enthusiastic grandson ; and if you will kindly look at my previous Paper, you will see how I proved what I say. It is a great pity, because people who read *Parentalia* take for granted it is correct.



The Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner of the Institute was held on Tuesday, 6 May, at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, W. The President (Mr. J. Alfred Gotch) was in the Chair. The following is a list of the company present:

The Right Hon. the Earl of Middleton, K.P., P.C.; the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London; the Right Hon. Lord Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., Secretary of State for India; the Right Hon. Lord Thomson, C.B.E., D.S.O., Secretary of State for Air; the Right Hon. Lord Sumner, G.C.B., P.C.; the Right Hon. Lord Charnwood, D.L., J.P.; the Right Hon. F. W. Jewett, P.C., M.P., H.M. First Commissioner of Works; Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge, Bart., K.C.B., Permanent Secretary, Board of Education; the Vice-Chancellor, the University of Oxford (Mr. J. Wells, M.A.); the Vice-Chancellor, the University of London (Mr. H. J. Waring, F.R.C.S.); Sir A. R. de Capell-Brooke, Bart.; Mr. J. Herbert Hunter, J.P., Chairman of the London County Council; Sir George Frampton, R.A.; Sir Lawrence Weaver, K.B.E., F.S.A.; Sir Banister F. Fletcher; Sir Cecil Harcourt Smith, C.V.O., LL.D.; Sir James Bird, J.P., Clerk to the London County Council; Mr. Paul Waterhouse, F.S.A.; Dr. Alexander Russell, President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers; Sir Ryland Adkins; Mr. D. Y. Cameron, R.A.; Mr. J. C. Squire; Mr. E. Stanley Hall, President of the Architectural Association; Mr. J. I. Davidson, President of the Surveyors' Institution; Mr. E. J. Partridge, President of the Society of Architects; Mr. H. Matthews, President of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers.

Professor Patrick Abercrombie; Lieut.-Colonel John W. Abraham; Mr. Maurice B. Adams; Mr. Hakon Ahlberg; Mr. C. R. Ashbee; Mr. Henry V. Ashley; Alderman Alfred Baker; Mr. F. G. Baker; Mr. J. R. Ball; Mr. Jerome Bankes; Major Harry Barnes (Vice-President); Mr. Thomas Barron (President of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives); Major Lionel Barry; Mr. R. E. Bell; Mr. W. Woodbridge Biggs; Dr. W. A. Blackstone; Mr. O. A. Bloxam; Mr. Edward T. Boardman (President of the Norfolk and Norwich Association of Architects); Mr. H. Chalton Bradshaw; Mr. Walter H. Brierley; Mr. H. W. Brittan; Mr. Victor Brown; Mr. Herbert T. Buckland; Mr. G. C. Burrows; Mr. C. McArthur Butler; Mr. G. V. Carey; Mr. Walter Cave; Mr. W. B. Chamberlain; Mr. Basil Champneys; Mr. C. Christie; Mr. F. G. Clark; Mr. T. E. Clarke; Major Hubert C. Corlette; Mr. E. Guy Dawber (Vice-President); Mr. Reid Dick, A.R.A.; Mr. W. F. Dickinson; Mr. Rudolf Dircks; Mr. Benjamin Drage; Mr. J. Murray Easton; Mr. H. Godfrey Evans; Mr. Henry M. Fletcher; Mr. E. R. Forber; Mr. L. R. Ford (President of the District Surveyors' Association); Mr. J. Leighton Fouracre (President of the Devon and Exeter Architectural Association); Mr. Percival M. Fraser; Mr. R. H. Gillespie; Lieut.-Colonel W. R. Glover; Mr. Gerald H. Grace; Mr. Hastwell Grayson; Mr. W. Curtis Green, A.R.A.; Mr. W. H. Gunton; Mr. R. F. Gutteridge; Mr. Stanley Hamp; Mr. David Hawes; Mr. Everard J. Haynes; Mr. A. J. Healey; Mr. Joseph Hill; Alderman E. J. Holland; Mr. Henry T. Holloway (President of the Master Builders' Association); Mr. Arthur J. Hope (President of the Manchester Society of Architects); Mr. G. J. Howling; Mr. P. W. Hubbard; Mr. Edward Hudson; Mr. A. A. Hughes; Mr. T. R. Jenkins; Mr. O. Campbell Jones; Mr. Arthur Keen (Hon. Secretary); Mr. E. Bertram Kirby (President of the Liverpool Society of Architects); Mr. W. R. M. Lamb; Mr. G. C. Lawrence (President of the Wessex Society of Architects); Sir Walter Lawrence; Mr. Frank Lishman; Mr. C. W. Long; Mr. C. H. Mabey; Mr. Ian

* Unable to be present.

MacAlister (Secretary R.I.B.A.); Mr. E. Morrall Maddox; Lieut.-Colonel Stuart Mallinson; Mr. H. W. Martin-Kaye; Mr. Fred May; Dr. J. S. Maynard; Mr. Percy W. Meredith; Mr. Thomas R. Milburn; Mr. Gerald Moira; Dr. H. R. Mosse; Mr. Alan E. Munby; Mr. John Murray; Mr. William G. Newton; Mr. G. E. Nield; Mr. R. H. Nield; Mr. F. G. Pain; Mr. Rees Phillips; Mr. L. C. Phillips; Mr. W. T. Plume; Mr. Henry Poole, A.R.A.; Mr. Sidney Powell; Mr. E. Turner Powell; Mr. G. P. Powis; Mr. Mansfield Price; Colonel E. Prismall; Mr. Frank P. Rider; Mr. Henry Saul; Mr. F. E. Sidney; Rev. P. S. Sidney; Mr. W. S. Skinner (President of the Bristol Society of Architects); Mr. Einar Skjold; Mr. J. Arthur Smith (President of the Hampshire, etc., Architectural Association); Mr. Alec Smithers; Mr. C. D. Spragg; Mr. C. D. St. Leger; Mr. F. J. Stannard; Mr. W. P. Steel; Mr. William Stewart; Mr. H. M. Kerr; Mr. J. H. Stokes; Mr. T. S. Tait; Mr. Walter Tapper; Mr. Sydney Tatchell; Mr. Percy E. Thomas (President of the South Wales Institute of Architects); Mr. John Todd; Captain B. S. Townroe; Mr. F. G. Troup; Mr. Raymond Unwin; Mr. C. F. A. Voysey (Master of the Art Workers' Guild); Mr. A. B. Walkley; Major F. A. Wallis; Mr. Edward Warren (President of the Berks, etc., Architectural Association); Mr. E. T. Watkin; Mr. Maurice E. Webb; Mr. Herbert A. Welch; Mr. H. Wilcock (President of the Institute of Builders); Mr. Philip Williams; Mr. Geoffrey C. Wilson; Mr. P. A. Gilbert Wood; Mr. Edgar H. Woodcock; Mr. Frank Woodward; Mr. Wm. Woodward; Mr. F. R. Yerbury; Mr. E. Alex. Young.

After the loyal toasts had been proposed by the President, Sir AMHERST SELBY-BIGGE proposed "The Royal Institute of British Architects," and referred to the Ethiopians and Cyclopeans. The Cyclopeans were individualists; they did not care what anyone else did. But since the days of the Cyclopeans the architects had learnt a great deal, and that there was a great deal to be learnt. They realised that it did not do to care what other architects were doing or not doing. Architecture was a high art; it did not call down automatically the Promethean fire of inspiration. In the sphere of education for art they were up against great difficulties: more difficult than in any other sphere of education. A system of education must have room for the free development of the talent of the individual—not the talent of the genius—genius the incorrigible. But genius was not condemned to futility; it was a question of keeping the heads of genius among the stars, and at the same time keeping their feet on the ground. The Royal Institute of British Architects was a great professional organisation. He owed a great obligation to the Institute, and institutes of a similar character.

The PRESIDENT, in responding on behalf of the Institute, thanked Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge for the interesting manner in which he had proposed the toast of the Institute. He did not propose to follow very closely because he thought they would be pleased to be taken away from the ordinary atmosphere which pervaded the Institute. He would therefore content

himself in welcoming so many distinguished guests who were interested in architecture, for the greater the number of those other than architects who were imbued with an interest in architecture and could look at the art with discerning eyes the better it would be for the public and the better for architecture. The President continued :

When we reflect that of all the arts architecture is the most necessary and the most visible, intruding itself in the most insistent manner upon the consciousness of the world at large, the desirability of the public acquiring some knowledge of the principles underlying its outward expression needs no urging.

Perhaps this want of knowledge arises in part from the fact that architecture has played no large part in literature. No poet of the past has sung its glories, its splendours, or its homeliness. No writer of prose, other than an architect, not even Ruskin, has taken it as his theme in a manner at once so attractive and so well-informed as to be both fascinating and truly educational. The reason is not far to seek ; neither poets nor prose writers have really understood architecture. Inspiration may give you a delightful faculty of expression ; it cannot give you knowledge of the intricacies underlying the visible manifestations of architecture. In order adequately to sing this nymph, not only must you gaze with delight upon her form, but you must know something of the skeleton beneath it.

The subject is not an easy one. I can well imagine some poet struggling for months, in sickness and in health, to master his subject sufficiently to start upon an epic, and finally bursting into petulant song :—

Oh Architecture ! in our hours of *ease*
Abstruse, elusive, hard to seize,
When *pain* and *anguish* wring the brow,
The curse of all the ages thou.

But while we search the pages of the poets in vain for rhapsodies upon our art, we do find references to it, or descriptions of architectural features incidental to their themes. Chaucer, for instance, has no high-flown outbursts, but he often helps us to form a mental picture of a mediaeval house. Spenser is a little more particular in his descriptions, and brings before the eye some of the gorgeous palaces of Elizabeth's days : the house of Pride was "A stately Palace, built of squared brick," wherein

High lifted up were many lofty towers,
And goodly galleries far overlaid,
Full of fair windows and delightful bowers ;
And on the top a Dial told the timely hours.

and when the prince and the knight approached Mercilla's dwelling,

They a stately palace did behold
Of pompous show, much more than she had told ;
With many towers, and terrace mounted high
And all their tops bright glistening with gold.

Indeed, the embodiments of architecture which came within their ken have constantly appealed to poets. Shakespeare has plenty of allusions to them. The "worm-eaten hold of ragged stone" at Warkworth Castle, and the "jutty, frieze, buttress, or coign of vantage" of Macbeth's are touches from ancient buildings. Imogen's chamber, painted with a brush full of colour and truth, was drawn from a model new when he saw it, so aptly does it picture an Elizabethan room. And the destruction that followed the fall of the monasteries is painted in a single line when he likens a grove of leafless trees to

Bare, ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.
Milton, too, has a few slight sketches of buildings as he saw them. His eye delights in an ancient house—

Towers and battlements it sees
Bosom'd high in tufted trees ;
and no less does it love some solemn Cathedral, and its

. . . high embowèd roof
With antique pillars massy proof,
And storied windows richly dight
Casting a dim religious light.

Pope discusses the subject in an entertaining manner in his epistle to Lord Burlington, but it is more by way of satire than of glorying in its beauty and stateliness. Fools, he says, imitating his lordship's publications,

Shall call the winds through long arcades to roar
Proud to catch cold at a Venetian door.

The familiar lines of Gray give a very apt illustration of an Elizabethan house :

To raise the ceiling's fretted height
Each panel with achievement clothing,
Rich windows that exclude the light
And passages that lead to nothing.

Coleridge, too, flashes out a romantic vision :

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure dome decree,
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.

Xanadu might almost be Derbyshire, for many of its streams plunge into fathomless abysses, and by one of them stands a pleasure-dome, the pavilion in the public gardens of Buxton.

Other poets might be quoted as describing what they had seen, but without knowing what lay beneath the surface, Browning alone seeming to have burrowed in his unmelodious way deeper than the rest.

When they leave description for construction poets aim very wide of the mark, and no whit behind them are the writers of prose. Take the great tower built by the caliph Vathek, under the tutelage of William Beckford, son of the man who built Fonthill and himself the builder of a vast sham abbey, which fell down

some twenty years after it was built. This tower was ascended by 11,000 steps, and reckoning each step at six inches, it must have been over 5,000 feet high. In climbing mountains a thousand feet in an hour is good going, so it must have taken about five hours to ascend this tower ; and yet Vathek and his suite trip up and down it as gaily as if they were going up to bed, or coming down to breakfast in an hotel without a lift.

But a greater writer than Beckford ventured out of his depth when he dealt with architectural matters. Why was the immortal Pecksniff labelled " architect " ? There is no intimate touch about him that makes him more like an architect than like a lawyer, or accountant, or auctioneer. You will remember, too, that Martin Chuzzlewit went to him as a pupil, and the raw youth, without a day's training, was immediately put to work, single-handed, upon a set of competition designs for a large grammar school, which he completed in a few weeks and then went to America. On his return to England he found himself at the foundation-stone laying of a large institution of which Pecksniff was posing as the architect, but Martin found, on looking over his shoulder, that the design was in fact his own, which had been successful in the competition. When we reflect upon the five-years course of study now considered requisite for the training of a young architect, we can but regret the dearth of such gifted youths as Martin.

No, the studies of these writers have led them in directions other than those which point to architecture. So, too, with philosophers. One will tell you that a Gothic cathedral derived its vaulted and arcaded interior from the idea of a grove of trees, thus converting a charming poetical fancy into matter-of-fact nonsense. Another will tell you that whereas the Greeks placed columns outside their temples, Gothic architects put them inside, for a change. Such ideas never would have occurred had the writers possessed any acquaintance with the structural development of architecture.

We were to have been honoured with the presence of the French Ambassador, who, however, is detained by matters of moment, and I had hoped to ask him if his literature treats of architecture more freely than does ours ; I can only recall Victor Hugo's brilliant picture of mediæval Paris. But there are buildings in his beautiful land which stir the emotions as deeply and to as fine issues as any we possess : and there lies before the travellers in the wide realm of literature a vast and fascinating territory which few have trodden and of which there is no abiding occupant. There it lies, open to all, and if any enterprising soul will enter and take possession, and then transmute his experiences into living words, we may have a message which shall convert architecture, wrongly held by some to be cold and dull, into something palpitating with warmth and colour.

Mr. E. BERTRAM KIRBY [F.], further responding, said the Liverpool Architectural Society was senior to any other architectural society in this country with the exception of the Royal Institute. Their close alliance was of great value ; its significance might easily be lost. Only a few years ago the union between them was by no means so cordial as to-day. A short time back the alliance might have been considered a generous experiment. However, it had now attained to the dignity of a permanent union. He would also like to mention that in his Society, excluding students, two-thirds of its members, and, for the first time in its history, the Council, were members of the Institute. There was a great advantage from this close co-operation and alliance. It was not an exaggeration to say that the prestige of the Institute would not be what it was to-day without the allied societies. Together they formed a body which was of Imperial significance. It promised to be even larger in its scope than at present. He would like to express to Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge the thanks of the Allied Societies for the toast he had proposed, and the manner in which the President had responded.

The toast of " The Arts " was proposed by the VICE-CHANCELLOR of the University of Oxford, who, after expressing his sympathy with Sir Aston Webb in the accident which had prevented him from being present that evening, said he thought there was no time when art was more needed. It was not easy to forget the hideous buildings erected when they had to approach London through miles and miles of ugly houses. Especially did they need a knowledge of the arts when it was proposed to destroy some of the remaining Wren churches in the City of London ; everyone who really represented the arts, or loved the arts, would wish that those masterpieces would not be destroyed. Was there not a real need for the teaching of the arts when they remembered the great tendency to practise and preach the cult of the ugly ? A great deal of modern art made up for its lack of originality by departing from the traditions of those who made beauty in the old days. Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge had said that heresies of one generation were the orthodoxies of another ; sometimes that was so, but he thought in the majority of cases the heretics who had become orthodox were very few indeed. Those who made new departures which were successful were those who kept some traces of the old traditions.

The EARL OF MIDLETTON, in responding, said : In the chaotic times that existed nowadays it was a comfort to go with the architects where the flowing tide was with them. It was surely a truism that art of the higher nature was swamped by mechanical art. He could not help thinking of the remark of Lord Beaconsfield in regard to the aspirations of his party some eighty years ago : " He did not think that the

country had done anything for the people ; in place of the monastery it had given the workhouse." Within two miles of this neighbourhood they could see the three most monstrous buildings erected in London. For instance, they had the Albert Memorial ; sandwiched in between the Houses of Parliament and Waterloo Bridge they had Charing Cross Bridge ; then they had the Griffin as a substitute for Temple Bar. It was a tradition at the War Office that the Duke of Wellington, when asked if the architect of certain new barracks should have his name embossed on the building, refused, saying that punishment should be meted out according to the offence ! Reverting to commercial art, it had done something for the higher forms of art which had never been achieved before. It enabled people to see works of art which would otherwise have been impossible.

Mr. J. C. SQUIRE, who also responded, said the art of being President of the Royal Institute had been raised in late years to a fine art—Mr. Paul Waterhouse instituted a magnificent tradition, and that was being carried on with equal success by Mr. Gotch. The art of being Bishop of London was also flourishing, for he believed no man had done more to make opportunities for contemporary architecture. He believed the chief thing about the arts in the present day was that they had come out into the arena. In the Victorian age there were those who protested against the ugliness of the age and those who spent their time in taking refuge from it. It was not a good thing to take refuge from surroundings, and it was good to know that the arts were now getting into touch with the public, and attempting to do what the public wanted ; that was sufficient to justify them in thinking that the arts were now more flourishing than they were a generation ago.

Mr. E. GUY DAWBER [F.] proposed "The Guests." He said at a gathering of architects he was always glad to meet with men of other professions and other spheres of action ; it enlarged their sympathies, and helped them to understand their respective interests.

It was given to few to understand and appreciate the arts of music, sculpture and painting ; but, whether they liked it or not, everyone must to a certain extent study the art of architecture, because on their daily walks it was brought to their notice on every side, and they could not get away from it. On the amount of building going on in London and the provinces he felt the architects of this decade must stand or fall in the future. They all as a profession owed a great deal to the illustrated press and the press in general, for there was no question it aroused the more educated classes to an enthusiasm for architecture, particularly on the domestic side, that had not been in evidence since the Victorian era.

In responding, the BISHOP OF LONDON said he felt it a special compliment that they should have invited him to be present, and he hoped they would not think him the iconoclast the press made him out to be. He would not go into the question of the City churches, but he could assure them that no one admired beautiful architecture more than he. He would rather resign his See than see hands laid on such beautiful churches as St. Bartholomew the Great, for instance. He also wanted to see that nothing was done to endanger the safety of St. Paul's Cathedral. He knew nothing about whether the proposed St. Paul's Bridge would endanger the Cathedral, but he called upon them to see that nothing was done which would endanger it. The art of architecture was the art most needed to-day. The housing was appalling, and was responsible for most of the immorality which they met. He wanted churches, but he could not get them. He used to build five churches every year before the war, but he had only succeeded in having one built since, and the cost had been £18,000. The Church could not afford that cost—it had not got the money. How were they to deal with that tremendous problem ? He wanted architects to tell him how they could get the churches they needed and at the same time spare the City churches.

Lord OLIVIER also responded.

St. Paul's Bridge

BY PAUL WATERHOUSE, PAST PRESIDENT

The following important statement by Mr. Paul Waterhouse with regard to the opposition of architects and others to the proposed St. Paul's Bridge was published in a letter to *The Times* on 14 May:—

I should like, at the risk of repeating arguments already published, to make it perfectly clear on what grounds many of those who are most strenuously opposed to the St. Paul's Bridge scheme persist in opposition.

There are, of course, two very cogent arguments against it, both so obvious that I need only mention them—one being that if large sums of money are available for bridge building in the metropolis, it seems strange not to allocate them to the Charing Cross problem; and the other that the least breath of a suspicion that the bridge—or its land connections—might injure St. Paul's is enough to condemn it.

But leaving these points out of account, the great objection to the scheme lies in the suspicion that it is ill-considered, and, indeed, if considered at all, is a bit of piecemeal enterprise entirely unrelated to any known general proposals for the amelioration of London traffic and London amenities.

Outside the official corporate bodies in whose hands lie the decision of this and similar problems there exists, in ever-growing strength, a body of expert public opinion which sometimes stands aghast at the apparently light-headed way in which the guardians of London handle the property they hold in trust for the citizens. It is dismay at the present crisis which brought together a conference between the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Town Planning Institute, the London Society, and the Architecture Club. All of these bodies have in one aspect or another of their outlook on London a right and a duty in expressing their concern as to the safeguarding of the urban beauty and convenience of the capital. Their views, if unasked, are at least sincere and based upon study of the problems involved. To many members of these bodies there appear to be certain clear and definite principles which should control all projects for the road and bridge planning of the future. They can hardly keep silence if they see those principles ignored or defied.

Among these axioms are two of cardinal importance. One is that the way to relieve the City's congestion is to admit to its roads—as far as possible—no traffic that is not concerned with some spot within the City as a destination or a starting point; in other words, to keep the City from being a passage. The other axiom is that the Surrey land near the City, which is bound to be developed and changed in the very near

future, should have that future provided for by the preparation of a proper, well-considered plan.

Both of these almost self-evident propositions seem to be disregarded by the promoters of St. Paul's Bridge and its road connections. As regards the first consideration the project is threatened by the horns of a disastrous dilemma. If it is going to meet, as is alleged, an acute want, it is then certain of working havoc on the existing congested traffic which passes east and west at both the north and south sides of St. Paul's Churchyard. To put it briefly, Cannon Street and Cheapside are to be afflicted with right-angle cross-traffic at a point where there is so little distance between them as not to leave room for the usual length of a police hold-up on a busy day.

If, on the other hand, we are told that the traffic over the bridge will be inconsiderable, why should these vast sums be spent upon a bridge at all? Southwark Bridge before it was remodelled was but little used. It was explained that the neglect was due to its heavy gradients. The gradients have now been improved, and the horses to whom the gradient was a trouble have in large numbers disappeared. Why is it still neglected? It is difficult to say, except that drivers of vans are very conservative people. In any case the taboo on Southwark Bridge is very likely to act on the proposed St. Paul's Bridge. Certainly the prospect of facing the double cross streams of traffic at the south-east corner of St. Paul's Churchyard and at the junction of Newgate Street with Cheapside is not likely to be any allurement to drivers wishing to cross the river at a point which is only some 300 yards away from Southwark Bridge.

As to the other axiom, it may be, of course, that the London County Council has in its pigeonholes a matured plan of Southwark's future; but the public have every reason to fear that Southwark and the whole urban area from Lambeth to London Bridge is being left to take its chance.

All that is asked for is forethought and the assurance that the forethought is being exercised by competent persons with competent powers and a wide outlook. London is far too valuable for piecemeal jobbings when it calls for general control.

ARCHITECTS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the R.I.B.A. and the Allied Societies will be held this year at Oxford from 9 to 12 July. A preliminary programme of the arrangements is enclosed with this issue of the Journal.

Inigo Jones and the Stage

BY HUBERT C. CORLETTE [F.]

In the Department of Engraving, Illustration, and Design, at the Victoria and Albert Museum, many interesting drawings by Inigo Jones are now to be seen. They are from the Chatsworth Collection and have been lent by the Duke of Devonshire. The series includes some work by John Webb, to whom all these drawings were bequeathed by Inigo Jones, his uncle by marriage. Through Webb's descendants they passed to the Earl of Burlington, from whose villa at Chiswick they went to Chatsworth, where they have been carefully preserved during some three hundred years. This year the Oxford University Press will publish, as the twelfth annual volume issued by the Walpole Society, a *Catalogue Raisonné* of these designs with fifty reproductions. The drawings are interesting as drawings, as well as for the ideas of design they present. But they are also valuable for the evidence they give of the growth of Italian influence in England under James the First and Charles the First. These drawings are a long series of designs for masques, spectacular displays rather than dramatic performances. The simple staging that sufficed for the great plays which Shakespeare gave us did not satisfy a demand for the essentials of a masque. The drama was a play of action, the work of a playwright whose words produced the several scenes. The masque was all a scene with little or no play in action; and, except by Milton's use of it, few words, comparatively, were required. These drawings, then, are interesting because they show the developing interest in scenes as such, in the scenery of a theatre, and the stagecraft required to give it variety and value. They may suggest that sometimes, perhaps, in a modern theatre, where the staging has become so important, and is now so well studied, the relative values of the design in stagecraft and that in the mind of the playwright should not compete too much. Ben Jonson, the playwright, turned his mind to the masque. Inigo Jones, the painter, turned his attention to stagecraft and the making of scenery. And between the two there were scenes, because Ben the writer considered his contribution to the art of the theatre of more intrinsic value than that of Inigo the scene painter. So Jonson used satire to paint Jones, and Jones painted scenes that irritated Jonson.

Among the drawings are designs for scenes in masques by Davenant, Shirley, Carew, Townshend, Ben Jonson, and others. Most of them were executed between the years 1605 and 1638. Soon after the last date the theatre, in any of its forms, found little encouragement from the extravagances of a self-righteous puritanism. There was evidently some need for

moderation, or reform, in the presentations of the stage. Milton, in his *Comus*, written between 1632 and about 1638, seems to indicate this by his choice of theme, his method of handling the masque, and the temperate manner in which he appears to criticise contemporary tendencies. Nearly all the masques for which designs are exhibited take a "Triumph" of some kind as their subject. Davenant has a "Triumph of Prince D'Amour" and a "Britannia Triumphans." Shirley has a "Triumph of Peace." Townshend has "Albion's Triumph." But there can be little doubt that *Comus* is a great Miltonic triumph; a truly wonderful triumph of English thought, expressed by an English style of musical language rhythms not to be surpassed by any other forms of structural diction.

Among the other drawings are a design by Bibiena for a scene representing a courtyard of a palace; some designs for costumes; and a design for the Palace of Whitehall. All the designs for English masques appear to be the working drawings, to a small scale, for the scenes actually presented. Many of them show that they were used by the scene painters at their work, since they carry still on their surfaces the old distemper used by the craftsmen in executing them. The drawing of the Palace of Whitehall shows a large façade in which appear two blocks of building very much like the existing Banqueting Hall. As a drawing it is interesting, for it shows how carefully the design was set out with pin pricks, and lines ruled, without ink or pencil, to give the centres of the columns of the "Orders" and the windows. In the flanking "pavilions" the "Orders" are large in size and introduce the usual problem involved by a change in scale when smaller columns of an "order" are, as in this case, introduced in another part of the same façade or composition. Another drawing is Van dyke's portrait study of Inigo Jones himself. It is the fine original from which Van Voerst produced what is perhaps the best presentation, in line engraving, of the personality of the man whose designs made in the seventeenth century are now, by the courtesy of the Duke of Devonshire, to be seen at South Kensington.

BRITISH SOCIETY OF MASTER GLASS PAINTERS.

A joint meeting will be held by this Society and the Society of Glass Technology on 27 May at 3 p.m. at University College, Gower Street, W.C.1, when the following Papers will be read: "The Decay of Window Glass from the Point of View of Lichenous Growths," by Ethel Mellor, D.Sc.; "The Decay of Mediaeval Stained Glass" by Noël Heaton, B.Sc.; "The Weathering and Decay of Glass," by Prof. W. E. S. Turner.

Exhibition of Swedish Architecture

BY G. G. WORNUM [F.]

It is apt that this Exhibition has been organised by the Architectural Association, for it strikes above all things a note of youthful enthusiasms and ambitions. A great debt of thanks is due to all who have contributed to its realisation, both in this country and in Sweden.

The Gothenburg Exhibition of last summer, and the

It should be recalled that Sweden, though rather on the outskirts of Europe, has for generations been considerably at the mercy of outside influences. Her peasant arts she has always had and still has, as well as her wooden houses and churches. Her buildings of brick and stone, however, have not been really national.



A MODEL OF THE STADSHUS, STOCKHOLM. RAGNAR ÖSTBERG, ARCHITECT.
(In the Exhibition of Swedish Architecture at the R.I.B.A.)

published illustrations of the new Stockholm Stadshus have robbed the work shown of some of its novelty, but of none of its interest. Such a representative collection of drawings, photographs, and models as the exhibition holds, gives us, however, a much clearer insight into the recent development and tendencies of the building arts of Sweden, and cannot fail to leave us impressed, and above all, stimulated.

Holland for long influenced the style of her architecture, and the Eastern flavour from the Spanish domination of the Netherlands remains to this day in her buildings, with dramatic effect. Germany contributed a Romanesque style which, so suited to the severe climate and naïve simplicity of the nation, has left its impress in a taste for severity and solidity. The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries swept the country with French and

Italian styles, and the nineteenth century found her architecture, as that of the rest of Europe, very much without direction.

It is from the last quarter of the nineteenth century that this exhibition starts, and the work represented of Professor Clason, should receive first consideration. This architect is a leader (as the late Norman Shaw, R.A., in this country was a leader) who, by prolific practice and teaching, established a school of National Architecture. Mr. Clason restored the arts and crafts to their proper place in building, and made use of his materials and construction as features of his designs. His work is somewhat in the vernacular style of Norman Shaw, taking, for instance, the city hall at Norrköping or the mansion house at Adelsnäs. The scale of his work is especially fine.

Count Halwyl's Palace, designed by him in 1895, shows, on the other hand, a strong Venetian Gothic character. Venice continues to inspire much work to-day in Sweden. This is hardly surprising seeing that Stockholm, its heart, is a city of beautiful waterways.

Reference must now be made to Ragnar Östberg, whose chief work, the Stadshus, Stockholm, is shown by a large scale model, photographs and drawings. All those who have not seen the actual building should be grateful for such a display. This great building is in itself an epitome of the finest work now being done in Sweden. It constitutes a lasting monument to what can be done by beautiful craftsmanship, working under a master mind.

This combination of such able craftsmen, painters, sculptors and metal workers is raising the buildings of Sweden to the first rank. The architects themselves design with the sensitiveness of a sculptor. A high technique in planning enables them to achieve great dramatic effects against a background of the utmost simplicity. Many of these backgrounds are reminiscent of Krafst or Percier. The slender architecture of Pompeii pervades many of the designs, notably the work of Gunnar Asplund. The work has throughout, however, always a touch of freshness and youth, due no doubt to the fact that both architects and craftsmen go back to original sources of an archaic period for their inspiration, rather than to antique or renaissance versions. The impulse for such retrogression has come from Germany and Austria, and in view of the vitality resulting cannot but be welcomed.

A notable feature is the beautiful church work. Though several architects show a large number of designs, freshness is always apparent, while mannerisms distinctly pervade the whole. The churches of Lars Wahlman are among the most interesting. His structural forms are generally of a plastic and simple character, dramatically setting off beautiful craftsmanship. The Engelbrekt Church at Stockholm (1907) is shown by a very fine model. His work subsequent to this has been tending towards elimination and further sim-

plicity. The scheme for the Nyäshamn Church and Parochial Buildings is among the most interesting.

Ivar Tengbom works in rather the same style, but tends a little more to the Baroque. He shows, among other things, a model of the Högalid Church, Stockholm, which is extremely pleasing. The basis of the design is Romanesque, but the result is both individual and national. The Enskede Church by Bergsten is very much on the traditional lines of the old timber churches. The Masthugget Church by Sigfrid Ericson (of which there is a model) is also traditional, but more in the manner of the Netherlands than of Sweden. The Saltsjobaden Church by Boberg is Byzantine in character and contains much beautiful decoration and sculpture.

Among the public buildings exhibited is the model of the Palace of Justice of Stockholm, by Carl Westman, a fine conception, beautifully balanced, simple in style and of great dignity. The Academy of Architecture and Engineering, Stockholm, by Erik Lallerstedt, is another fine building. Effectively planned, and restrained in character, it does not, however, convincingly carry the style of its ornament.

The Carlander-Hospital by Bjerke, shown by a model, is another important exhibit, distinctly national in character and finely composed. The Chalmers Technical Institute, of which there are model, photographs and drawings, has a very interesting lay-out.

There are also models and photographs (the latter by Mr. Yerbury) of the Gothenburg Exhibition.

Other exhibits range from halls and cinemas to factories and commercial buildings.

Domestic architecture is not much represented; the most interesting house is that designed by Östberg for Mr. Geber.

The Exhibition of Modern Swedish Architecture arranged by the Architectural Association in the Institute Galleries was opened by His Excellency Baron Palmstierna, the Swedish Minister in London, on 12 May.

Mr. E. Stanley Hall, the president of the Architectural Association, who was in the chair, expressed the pleasure of the Association in welcoming to this country the first Swedish Exhibition. The Swedish Minister in his address expressed his sincere regret that Sir Aston Webb could not be present owing to the unfortunate accident he had recently sustained. He stated that the Swedish Royal Academy had nominated Sir Aston a Member of the Academy, and in his absence he asked Mr. Maurice Webb to receive the diploma for his father. After referring to the origin of the Exhibition and the close sympathy between England and Sweden he declared the exhibition open. Mr. Maurice Webb thanked the Swedish Minister on behalf of his father, and the President of the Institute (Mr. J. Alfred Gotch) moved a vote of thanks to the Swedish Minister for his sympathetic speech. A distinguished gathering was present at the ceremony.

Correspondence

THE R.I.B.A. AND REGISTRATION.
9 May 1924.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

DEAR SIR,—You have probably seen a circular issued by the "Defence League," in which the Council are asked to put the following question to the Rt. Hon. Edward Shortt, K.C.:

"If the Amalgamation takes place, do you see any possible chance of architects obtaining Registration?"

At my instructions this question has been put to Mr. Shortt, and I think his answer should be sufficient to convince any doubtful minds of the necessity for the amalgamation with the Society of Architects the Council are proposing.

Mr. Shortt's answer is as follows:—

"I am asked whether, in my opinion, if the Amalgamation takes place, there is any possible chance of architects obtaining Registration. I am of opinion that there is more than a possible chance, there is a reasonable probability, with a reasonably good case on public as well as professional grounds. My opinion, of course, assumes that the proposed Amalgamation will be carried out, without which the difficulties would be very much greater."

E. SHORTT, 9 May 1924."

Yours faithfully,
J. A. GOTCH, President R.I.B.A.

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, COMPETITION.

5 India Building, Water Street,
Liverpool. 9 May 1924.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

DEAR SIR,—The letter of apology which Messrs. Tait and Rees have signed and with which Mr. Gordon H. G. Holt has asked to be permitted to associate himself is completely satisfactory to us.

We accept the unreserved withdrawal of their charges and now consider the matter to be finally closed.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) HERBERT J. ROWSE.
LIONEL B. BUDDEN.

FRANCO-BRITISH UNION OF ARCHITECTS.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

DEAR SIR,—I have to inform you that, in consequence of the inability of a number of our members to attend the General Meeting of the Union at the date previously announced, it has been decided to postpone this meeting until the early part of October next.

It is hoped that this postponement will enable many of those members (who expressed their regret at being unavoidably prevented from attending our proposed meeting

in Paris in June) to take part in the adjourned General Meeting and the visits to buildings of special architectural interest in Paris, and its environs, which are being arranged as part of our programme by the Committee of the French Section of the Union.

We need hardly remind members that the chief purpose of the Franco-British Union of Architects is to promote personal friendships between French and British Architects and to provide a common ground for the informal discussion of matters of mutual interest.

It is for this reason that formal business is limited to an irreducible minimum, and that no papers are read at our meetings, the aim of the Bureau being to keep these conferences as informal as possible.

We trust, therefore, that the invitation of our President, Monsieur Jules Godefroy, and the Committee of the French Commission will be accepted by a large number of our British Members.

Further details with regard to the date of our meeting, the cost of the journey and hotel accommodation, etc., will be announced in due course, but it would be a convenience if those who wish to attend this meeting in Paris would inform the Honorary Secretary of the British Section of their intention as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

(Signed) P. CART DE LAFONTAINE,
Secretary-General.

(Signed) ARTHUR J. DAVIS,
Hon. Secretary, British Section.

Allied Society

YORK AND EAST YORKSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society was held in the Royal Station Hotel, York. The chair was taken by Mr. Stephen Wilkinson, F.R.I.B.A., the president. Amongst those present were Messrs. J. M. Dossor (Hull), T. Snowden (Hull), S. G. Highmoor, E. A. Pollard, J. S. Syme, S. R. Kirby, C. W. C. Needham, S. Needham, S. Low, T. F. Cliffe, A. B. Burleigh, R. Jackson, C. Leckenby, J. P. Wilde, D. Robinsen, W. O. Noble and J. E. Reid.

Mr. Stephen Wilkinson was re-elected president, and Messrs. J. M. Dossor and Alan E. Munby (London), vice-presidents. The following members were elected to serve on the Council: Messrs. George Benson (Easingwold), A. B. Burleigh, C. H. Channon (Malton), G. D. Harbron (Hull), R. Jackson, S. R. Kirby, Llewellyn Kitchen (Hull), C. Leckenby, H. Monkman, C. W. C. Needham, S. Needham, A. Pollard (Scarborough), T. Snowden (Hull), J. Stewart Syme, W. S. Walker (Hull), T. W. Whipp (Scarborough), and F. T. Penty.

Mr. J. E. Reid was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mr. E. A. Pollard hon. treasurer, Messrs. S. G. Highmoor and A. Cowman consented to act as hon. auditors. At the meeting it was resolved to pay visits to buildings of interest in the county, and to give a series of lectures by architects on popular subjects. It was also resolved to adopt a presidential badge, and several sketches were laid before the meeting.

National Housing Policy

DEPUTATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE R.I.B.A. TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

Mr. JOHN WHEATLEY (Minister of Health) received the Deputation from the Institute in the Conference Hall of the Ministry on 8 May.

Mr. J. ALFRED GOTCH, F.S.A. (President of the Royal Institute) : I have the honour, Sir, to introduce a Deputation from the Royal Institute of British Architects and its Allied Societies, whose members cover not only the United Kingdom, but the whole of the British Dominions beyond the seas. But on the present occasion our point is more to emphasise the fact that we represent the whole of Scotland, England and Wales ; our members are working throughout the many districts, and are fully in touch with building matters in those three countries.

Without any further words, Sir, I will ask Major Barnes, Vice-President, to be good enough to introduce the subject which you have been kind enough to hear us on.

Major HARRY BARNES (Vice-President) : Mr. Wheatley, I am sure it will be helpful to you if I set out to you, very explicitly, at the outset, what it is we are here for. We are here to make to you two requests : first of all, that if, in connection with the housing programme, it is the intention of the Government to set up any Committees, either central or local, of a statutory or advisory character, upon which organised sections of the building industry are to be represented, we make a very respectful, a very definite and strong claim that the Royal Institute of British Architects and their Allied Societies shall have representation thereon. And then, we further ask, whether it is so intended or not, that the Government will make it a condition of any grant from public funds for housing schemes that they are prepared by qualified architects. We do not pretend for a moment that these two requests have no regard to the interests of the architectural profession, but what we do contend is, that if they are disallowed there will be a disregard shown to the public interest. And we base that statement on this ground. You, Sir, are now engaging on a great enterprise, which is bound to have a very profound effect both upon the building community and the building industry. And we draw a distinction between those two. The distinction is a very vital one, because their interests are not necessarily the same. By the building community we mean that part of the community for whom buildings are provided, and who, in their turn, find the money to meet the cost. Well, Sir, the architectural profession stands in an unique position. It is an essential part of the building industry, but, in addition to that, it is that part of the building industry to which the interest of the building community is committed. That, I think, is probably an unique position in any industry. And no private person or public body would ever engage in any extensive building operations without placing their interests in the hands of some member of our profession. So what we very respectfully suggest is this : that what no member of the Government would ever think of doing in his private capacity, should not be done in their

collective capacity, that is, engage in a great enterprise affecting the building community and the building industry without taking into the fullest confidence the architectural profession, that part of the building industry to which the interests of the building community are committed.

Passing from that point, I will, very briefly, say a word or two about the Memorandum which the Royal Institute of British Architects had the honour to present to you some time ago—I think it was early in February. Since that time—six weeks subsequently, I think—you also received a report from other sections of the building community or industry, and we are very much gratified to find in what a remarkable way the Memorandum which we presented to you has anticipated the conclusions of that later report. It may be very briefly put as being this : First of all, that the provision of houses for the lower-paid workers cannot proceed without assistance from public funds. That provision should be made of a very high standard, not only in relation to the buildings themselves, but also in relation to the whole question of their general position in the area, and in the lay-out of the particularly building estates. The third point was, that such provision involves a very extended programme, covering a considerable number of years. The fourth is, that such a programme, both in its initial stages and throughout its whole course, must take into regard the capacity of the building industry. And, last of all, I think the point was made that there should be no interference with the general programme of the main building industry.

We all know how very much your interest is engaged in the housing of the people of this country, and we feel it must be a source of gratification to you that, at least on these great principles, you have the unanimous opinion of every section of the building industry, including that of the architectural profession. Well, Sir, we did not confine ourselves in that Memorandum to those conclusions : we proceeded to make suggestions. And we think that those suggestions do convey in themselves a hint of what you may expect to get from very close co-operation with the Institute. We suggested there should be an overhauling of the Housing Manual and of the Report upon the By-Laws. Since they were prepared very extensive operations have been undertaken in connection with housing, and a very considerable amount of experience has been gathered ; and we think it would be a very useful thing to overhaul those recommendations in the light of that experience. We went on to suggest that the Committee which is already occupying itself with the price of materials should particularly concern itself with isolating that element of cost in house building. That again is a matter on which we find ourselves in unison with the Report. We went on to suggest that labour costs themselves should be made perfectly clear. We think there is great deal of misconception on both these points in the public mind, and that no Committee could

perform more useful work than to make it clear to the general public, who have to provide these houses and pay for them, what are the elements which make up their cost.

That brings me to what is the most important part of this housing question, and that is the shortage of skilled labour, with which the recent Report very largely concerned itself. Generally speaking on that Report, we are not prepared, this morning, to make any comments upon it, for two reasons : one, that you have not asked us to do so. The other is that our association with employers and operatives is very cordial ; we have closely discussed with them matters related to this Report, and as there are certain points in it on which we are not clear we do not think it is wise to express an opinion until we have had an opportunity of conferring with them on them. On that I may further say that the Institute has for some time now been considering very closely the question of the shortage of skilled labour, and, I think towards the latter part of last year, set up a Committee to enquire into it. You know, Sir—nobody knows better—it is a very obscure subject ; it raises questions of apprenticeship and dilution, and on these matters the Institute has received considerable information from sources which are well qualified to give it. But as, at the time, you were engaging the employers and operatives in considering this matter we did not confer with them, and our conference with them has been suspended on account of their negotiations with you. We are in the position that they have agreed to resume it as soon as they learn the views of the Government ; and we hope, before very long, to be able to present you, if you should so desire it, with a considered view of the Institute upon this very important matter.

At this moment I think we could go no further than this : that, as you know, we in the architectural profession are the guardians of the interests of the building community, particularly in this matter of craftsmanship. If there is one point which is left to the absolute and unfettered judgment of the architect upon building, it is the question of the craftsmanship employed, and it would be impossible for the Institute to agree to any measure of dilution which would generally lower the standard of craftsmanship in the building industry. (Hear, hear.) Therefore it would be necessary to consider very carefully any proposals made in that direction. That is not to say we at all exclude the possibility of so grading the various classes of construction and the labour necessary in connection with them as to prevent a very considerable increase in the amount of labour required for this class of work. There, again, that merely indicates the direction in which we think that if we had the opportunity we could be of service to the Government. But the question of the general services of the architectural profession will be raised by other members who are present and who will follow me. Broadly speaking, they are services in relation to design, and I have no doubt that that aspect of the case will be very considerably emphasised. There are also services in connection with cost, and that is a matter which must be of very considerable importance to you. I do not know whether you are under the impression—we hope you are not, but if you are we shall endeavour to remove it—that the employment of an

architect on this work is an element of increase in cost. Our view is the contrary, and the experience which architects have gathered in the pursuit of their profession has enabled them to make housing a more economical proposition than if they were disregarded. There is one other allusion on that aspect of the case. The business of the architect is to get for his clients the best buildings at the lowest cost, and the experience of the profession has, with rare exceptions, been gained under the system of competitive tendering and free access to building materials. The Government has given no indication at all, up to the present, as to what their proposals may be : but I think I am voicing the opinion of the Institute if I say that the Institute would view with very considerable apprehension any marked departure from the system with which they are so familiar.

Sir, I think I have said all that has been allotted to me to say ; the points I have very briefly raised will be dealt with in more detail by speakers who will follow me.

Mr. H. V. LANCHESTER [F.] : I speak, Sir, in support of the proposals Major Barnes has made to you, and I speak with some diffidence because it rather falls to me to voice the historic claims, as I may put it, of the architect to bear a part in the activities which you have recently taken over with regard to housing in this country. I must say that the architect is not solely interested as a mere matter of his pocket ; he is the man who feels, very often as deeply as anybody, any failure of schemes to make the best of our national resources. He sees, in his mind's eye, what could be done, and when that is not done he feels it just as hardly as if something had gone wrong in his own personal environment. I do not know whether it is necessary for me to make this claim to you ; I think that probably you are quite familiar with the attitude of the artist towards the rest of the community. But I do point out that the architect has been the repository of the science and art of building ever since it came into existence, and that it is his responsibility to show what the best building is, both from the practical and the artistic points of view ; and I think that he has worthily discharged these duties. It is particularly noticeable that during these post-war developments, the architect, who was deliberately brought into them by the Government, has done an enormous amount towards raising the standard of amenity in many of the districts where these works took shape. He has not only been responsible for the actual improvement of the plans of the buildings, which show a very great advance, but he has also, in many cases, taken part in consultations with the Ministry and municipal officers as to the proper mode of siting, arrangement and lay-out of places where houses for the industrial classes should be put. I think you will admit, Mr. Wheatley, that in these ways he has discharged his functions fairly efficiently. But we have not reached finality in these matters. The architect has learned a lot during this period ; he has, perhaps, still got a good deal "up his sleeve," and hopes to have the opportunity of making still further advances in regard to the housing of the people in the interests of the community in general. The suggestion has been made that some people consider the employment of an architect more costly ; but I think you will find that most level-headed business men will tell you

—probably you know it for yourself, Sir, that, considering the quality that results from his supervision, the architect's building is no more costly than other buildings, and is probably less costly in the fact that it is skilfully and economically planned, without waste in any direction, because it is the training of our profession that its members should learn to plan and group, and to carry out the matters connected with all branches of buildings, in the most economical way, where economy is a desideratum. I would like to add that the architect has been very largely consulted in the past as to the buildings put up under the national schemes, and when the public look at these (put up under difficult conditions) they receive high praise, and they have struck everybody as a great advance on the types customary before the war. It would therefore be a very great pity if, now that we had reached this standard of comfort and amenity, it were thought no longer necessary to consult the architect in conjunction with other parties, as to the schemes in the future. There would be a great risk that these schemes would become mechanised, and that they would lapse into something more resembling the monotony of pre-war days and the dulness of that time. I think the result would be that those who were going to occupy these new extensions of our towns would feel a definite disappointment and would regret that they were not in the earlier group that had the advantage of the previous schemes. If the public got that feeling of discouragement owing to failure in the amenities and in getting the best advice on new schemes, it would be very disastrous to the programmes of housing in the future. We as a profession, apart from whatever other interests we may have, feel, as members of the public, that there is a great opportunity open to us to make for a sane and healthy and beautiful life, we are most anxious to have the opportunity of taking part in those developments which promote that form of life, and it would be the greatest grief to us if we saw any failure in doing the best possible for housing in the future.

I wish, Mr. Wheatley, to thank you very much. You may feel I have said many things which are in your own mind, and for that I must ask your pardon.

Professor S. D. ADSHEAD [F.]: We have a very great deal to say on this subject, but I know I must be brief. In the first place, I do not think that you have been sufficiently reminded by the previous speakers of what an incalculable debt—I say it without modesty—the general public owes to architects in the matter of housing. You will be reminded, in this respect, of a time some 20 years ago, when the housing of the working classes was represented by the "brick boxes" which have been described in housing propaganda. Who was it who brought to bear on this question that imagination which fructified in an entirely new method of housing the working classes? It was Mr. Raymond Unwin, a member of our Institute and one of your officials, who with other architects pressed the question, and is closely associated with the new and original method of housing the working classes in connection with large industrial schemes, in garden suburbs, a method which is now accepted by the general public as the best method of housing this class. I do think therefore, that there is an incalculable debt due, not only to the profession

as a whole, but particularly to those architects who, in the early days, represented the profession in this respect. It would be a great pity if that close association of architects with the housing question were not carried on. In the second place, coming to more practical issues, architects employed by a local authority, or even by the large building firms, can more effectively give an independent expression of the needs of their employers than can officials, surveyors, engineers, clerks of works, and other classes and professions, who, by training, have not the special qualifications of an architect. In stressing this point, I would remind you of what happens in the Council chamber when questions as to designs of houses are considered. All sorts of suggestions come from different members of the Council, that are not always of the most harmonious kind, and usually the officials of local authorities—I do not say it with any kind of feeling against officials as such—are unable, in the majority of cases, to take a strong stand and express with any vigour views of their own. The result of an analysis of the housing schemes which have been carried out without architects, would show, I think, that there is a hesitancy and uncertainty, a lack of harmony and of strength of purpose in the general design. These are matters which are of the greatest importance in good architectural schemes.

In the second place, little has been said as to the economy of utilising the services of an architect. I have only one argument to offer on that point: Why do our great manufacturers always employ architects when they undertake big housing schemes? I have only to mention the large housing schemes of Messrs. Dorman, Long & Co., and of Messrs. Pilkington—which was entrusted to Professor Abercrombie—and the great colliery schemes which have been entrusted to Mr. Houghton and men well known in that connection, and Mr. Alwyn Lloyd, who is here today. If the great business men of the country think fit to employ architects and not leave their work entirely to the speculative kind of builder, surely it is evidence that it is the more economical procedure. In that connection, I am reminded of a very apt story, which was told me by my partner only yesterday. He was sent by a client, solely as a friend, to see a speculative builder's house, with a view to its acquisition by his client. He went not as an architect but as a friend of the prospective purchaser. He expected to see a small house redundant in architectural trimmings, but, instead, he saw a sober and well-proportioned house. And he said to the builder: "Surely there must have been an architect at work here?" "Yes," he said, "we are obliged to employ architects now, people will not have houses unless they are built by architects."

Lastly, I would remind you, Sir, that when the 1923 Bill was in progress through the House, the Royal Institute of British Architects endeavoured to have inserted in the Bill some reference to the utilisation of architects' services, and a reference to the importance of architecture in connection with your great housing scheme. The Labour Party supported a clause intended to give effect to these ideas and expressed the greatest sympathy with these views.

Mr. LAWRENCE (President, Wessex Society of

Architects) and Colonel REAVELL (Northern Architectural Association) spoke in support of the views of the previous speakers.

Mr. GOTCH : I do not know whether any other members of the Deputation want to make any observations.

Major CORLETT : May I intervene for one moment ? The President of the Institute, in his opening remarks, said the whole Empire is represented here, and I think it may be a little to the point if I briefly state that, as the representative in London of the Federal Council of Australian Architects, I am quite prepared thoroughly to endorse all that has been stated on the subject of housing and the necessity for architects being associated in all that is done in connection with it.

Professor PATRICK ABERCROMBIE [F.] : Perhaps, Sir, you will allow me to make three points bearing on the aspect of design. I shall not speak on economics, but on the artistic influence which the architect brings to bear on the houses. There is the design of the individual house itself, the actual shape of the windows, bars, etc. You, yourself, have some connection with the profession of printing, and you will agree with me that a page can be set up to look artistic, or it can be set up to look inartistic. So also a window may be well-proportioned or ill-proportioned, and the former without any additional cost in production. That is the first point, that the individual design of a house can be good, or it can be bad. We architects say further that if you get your houses properly designed you will not necessarily have a satisfactory scheme, for the grouping of the houses is a matter of the first importance, and it can be done without adding to your cost ; it can be done by simple permutations and combinations on one or two types ; in this way you can get an endless variety without adding anything to the cost of the houses. You can get, on the other hand, a good block of four houses, and repeat it endlessly and unintelligently, and that would not produce a good scheme. The use of the architectural eye in arranging the grouping produces harmony instead of monotony and wearisomeness. And, finally, we say the grouping of blocks of houses is not sufficient ; there is the artistic treatment of the site-planning without additional cost. And in these three directions we feel we can give you in place of monotony, interest and harmony ; we can produce schemes for the working classes of this country which will be as beautiful as any of the larger houses or villa residences which their wealthier friends are able to provide for themselves. We do not see any reason why the working classes of this country should not have the benefit of these conditions. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. T. ALWYN LLOYD (South Wales) : I should like the opportunity of saying, on behalf of the architects of Wales, that I desire to associate myself fully with what has been said by my colleagues from other parts of the country. We have our special problems in connection with housing in South Wales coal districts, and in this way, as in others, our contribution can be a very valuable one from the public point of view. I need only mention the establishment of dormitory or satellite towns apart from existing towns and villages.

Mr. GOTCH : I will ask our Past-President, Mr. Paul Waterhouse, to say a few words.

Mr. PAUL WATERHOUSE : Mr. Wheatley, I am glad I am to be the last speaker, because you may be bored by this time by hearing so often what good fellows we are, and tired of hearing of architects' active contribution to the housing problem. But there is one little point I would like to stress, and that is the other capacity of our Institute. We are a Royal Institute and a public body. Our motto is in Latin, and I will not offer a translation, but it has nothing to do with the protection of the architect : it means, as I translate it, "Comfort to the citizen and beauty to the City." We have always been concerned quite as much with the public side of architecture as with the protection of the interests of our profession, and, if I may, I will say three or four words to stress that. I am qualified to speak not only as the predecessor of my friend, Mr. Gotch, but as an architect who has never carried through a housing scheme, and therefore I have had the opportunity for admiration, qualified by nothing but professional jealousy occasionally, of the beauty of many of the housing schemes in rural districts. I do not wish to dwell on a question which Major Barnes has already emphasised to the effect that the architect is not necessarily an engine of expense ; but I would put what he and others have said in this way : that the architect is not a promotor of expense, but a controller of expenses, and I know you realise that, as well as do other people. But what I ask you to note, in winding up my remarks, and those of my brethren, is that our Institute should, if possible, have representation on the Committee or Committees which may be set up. I think it is owing to us that we should be amongst the counsellors of those who control these schemes.

Thank you, Sir, for your patience.

Mr. GOTCH : That, I think, includes all we have to say to you, Sir.

The RIGHT HON. JOHN WHEATLEY, M.P. : Well, gentlemen, in the first place I want to thank you, and to thank you quite sincerely, for having come here this morning and placed before me, in the clear and understandable terms in which you have presented your case, your views on the problem with which I am, at the moment, confronted. Perhaps you will allow me to refer, at the outset, to the criticism which has been levelled at me—I think it was in the mind of Major Barnes when he spoke—that I had passed over the architects ; that I had not taken them into my confidence and counsel when considering the solution of the problem of providing working-class houses. That arose rather from the nature of the case than from any lack of appreciation of the value of the architects. The difficulties to be overcome were, in my opinion, those into which architects did not enter ; I wanted to solve the problem of a shortage of labour, a shortage of materials, and a shortage of finance ; and it was therefore quite natural I should turn for advice to the people who provide the labour and the materials and the finance. One of the speakers—I think Mr. Lanchester—referred to the fact that one of the functions of the architect was to improve housing, and he said that in this respect we have not by any means reached finality. Well, gentlemen, I am in

whole-hearted sympathy with you there. I have repeatedly said publicly that I hope the day will come when we will not have any "class" houses; when we will not talk in terms of houses for the working class, for the middle class or for the better class, but when we will talk in terms of "houses," without any adjectives; that we will regard the whole community as having been the better for having been brought up in beautiful, healthy houses. And if we are to reach that stage, we must have architects.

Getting down, now, to the points which you have put before me, one of the points you have emphasised is the representation of the R.I.B.A. on the Committee. I am not quite clear in my mind what the function of the Committee will be. A report has been submitted to us which without any exaggeration the Prime Minister has described as one of extraordinary value. It is one which we are not committed to in any way; we will select from it that which we want, and I will bear in mind, when the Committee is being formed and its constitution drafted, your desire to have a place in that body which will be looking after housing.

I am afraid many of the remarks which you have addressed to me might be equally fruitfully addressed to the local authorities. After all, we are not building houses—the Ministry of Health is not—and we are anxious, as far as possible, not to interfere with the local authorities, because we have found from experience that the more we interfere with the local authorities, the slower is the production of houses. We want local authorities to be as free as possible, and therefore they will be allowed a considerable amount of liberty in regard to many of the points which you have put before me to-day. At any rate, I hope I have impressed you with this: that as the Minister of Health, and as one who has not ceased to have that view as to what the working classes are entitled to in the matter of housing which he held before he became Minister of Health, I hope we will not have the working classes of this country housed in sheds and shelters in the generations to come. (Hear, hear.)

I am very pleased with the general outline of the plan by which we may hope to make some headway. I find you so much in agreement that it makes me very confident that we are really going to do something here, when I find all sections (as far as we have travelled up to now) desiring to contribute in an unprejudiced way—non-political, non-professional, non-sectarian—their help in finding a way out of all the difficulties. I note that Major Barnes particularly, speaking on your behalf, recognised that we must have a contribution from the State, and a substantial contribution, to the provision of houses if we are to get them at anything like the rents which the people can afford to pay. And I am particularly pleased that you, like me, recognised that if we are to get out of our difficulties we must stabilise the industry, and give a long-term programme—something which will enable people to look beyond this building season to the years that lie before us and make their building plans bigger and more comprehensive—I am not thinking of competition in building, but the competition between the building industry and other requirements, which usually resulted in throwing building aside when something else improved. We are now getting

down to a serious steady effort to make up the leeway of the past, and to put the housing of the working people of this country not only on a higher standard, but as securing for it a place in the national industry year by year. We have, of course, to take into account the capacity of the industry, as you have pointed out, and that is one of the prime considerations. We have to increase that capacity before we can increase output of houses. I have no intention of interfering with other building work, and I announced that to the industry at the outset. I do not share the view that we are so limited in our national capacity that we can only do this at the expense of that; I think that, nationally, we are capable of doing much more than we are doing. What we want is a little more organisation.

The overhauling of the byelaws I think is a matter which is receiving consideration; it has been considered and it is being done. You told me you have been considering this problem of the augmentation of labour for a long time. There, again, you have a basic difficulty, and I need hardly tell you I will receive with gratitude any help you can give me, or any hint you can give me, which will assist us in the direction of getting more skilled labour.

It is refreshing to get out of the atmosphere of people who think that we can turn any type of working man, not merely the tradesman type, but the physical type, on to the erection of houses. In the House of Commons they say here are a million men unemployed—many of them, of course, are women—and that all you have to do is to turn on your million men, and you will have half a million houses put up in a year; it is so simple! (Laughter.) We recognise, all people in the industry recognise, that you will not get houses that way. What we have to aim at is to divert labour, particularly the youthful labour which is going into a cul-de-sac and ultimately to the unemployment exchange. We want to bring them into the more prosperous course of giving us the more essential things of life. We have drifted into a mess. We shall not get out of it to-morrow. All I can do is to induce the nation to turn in another direction. We are going down, and if I can get them to turn another way, I shall have contributed my little bit.

I agree with you, from my limited technical knowledge of the housing problem, that there is no great deal to be got from what is called "dilution of labour," or the introduction of almost unskilled labour to do skilled work. I think the employers themselves would find it a most uneconomical way of producing houses. But, within the possibilities, I hope, with your assistance and with the offer we have had from the building industry itself, we shall be able to do something: I do not see any great difficulty about it, as the years go by, in getting the labour essential to the providing of a decent standard of housing. I have never had any intention, neither had the building industry, of getting away from competitive tenders in regard to house building. A great deal of criticism has been levelled at us arising out of the report; we never had that in mind. I do not know how I should build houses if I applied my political theories to building without accepting the competitive system. I think the people of this country are not enlightened enough to adopt the collective system.

Some day I hope they will be. I have to take things as I find them. I find a competitive system. I have nothing up my sleeves in the matter ; I am going out, fairly and squarely, to make the best use of the prevailing conditions, and in a competitive system you are better to have competition. Except in so far as is absolutely necessary, I do not want to suspend competition in one little branch so that I may benefit people who are living under a competitive system and not the remainder of the field. And the same applies to building materials, which is another branch of the competitive system. Suggestions have been made that the Government intends to limit the materials used to British-manufactured materials. Here again we all have our different views regarding the question of Free Trade and Protection. Even if I wanted to do it, the country has just voted against Protection. Even the Conservative Party, which promised Protection, has accepted the verdict of the country, and the country will look coldly upon any scheme to bring in Protection by a back-door or a side-door. There would be the strongest objection on the ground that I think is commonly accepted, that the one branch of industry which is most suspect in the public mind is that branch engaged in the manufacture and distribution of building materials. Whether they are rightly or wrongly criticised I am not suggesting, but the suggestion exists, the suspicion exists. Then there is the doubt as to whether their resources are adequate to meet the needs of the nation. Taking these things into account, I have no intention, and the Government has no intention, neither, seriously, has the building industry itself, of introducing anything in the form of protection into the question of housing accommodation.

I do not know that there is anything further I have to add to what I have said. I am impressed by the representative character of the Deputation, its geographical distribution, and the reputation and influential qualities of those who are present. I know most of you by reputation. In the building industry, many of your names are household

words, and I want again to assure you that I am grateful for the advice which you have given to me, which cannot fail to impress me and be of assistance when I have to deal with housing in the future. (Applause.)

Mr. GOTCH : I hope, Sir, you will allow me to thank you, on behalf of the Deputation, for the very courteous and sympathetic manner in which you have received us, and for your very frank and discerning statement. I may be allowed to add that we came here to do what we can to help you, and if the Royal Institute can give any assistance in any other direction, we shall be only too happy to do so. (Applause.)

(The Deputation withdrew.)

The deputation consisted of the following representatives of the R.I.B.A. :—

The President R.I.B.A. (Mr. J. Alfred Gotch), Mr. Paul Waterhouse (Past President R.I.B.A.).

HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE R.I.B.A.

Mr. Henry V. Ashley, Major Harry Barnes (Vice-President), Mr. Walter Cave, Mr. G. C. Lawrence (President of the Wessex Society of Architects), Mr. Horace Cubitt, Mr. G. Leonard Elkington, Mr. W. G. Hunt, Mr. Herbert A. Welch, Mr. C. B. Willcocks, Professor S. D. Adshead, Mr. W. R. Davidge, Mr. F. M. Elgood, Mr. H. V. Lanchester, Sir A. Brumwell Thomas.

PRESIDENTS OF ALLIED SOCIETIES.

Mr. J. Leighton Fouracre (Devon and Exeter), Sir Wm. Portal (Hampshire and Isle of Wight), Mr. W. Alban Jones (Leeds and West Yorkshire), Mr. A. J. Hope (Manchester), Mr. E. T. Boardman (Norfolk and Norwich), Lieut.-Col. G. Reavell (representing Northern A.A.), Mr. H. L. Paterson (Sheffield), Mr. W. S. Skinner (Bristol), Mr. G. P. Milnes (Gloucester), Mr. Stephen Wilkinson (York and East Yorks), Mr. Alwyn Lloyd (South Wales), Professor Patrick Abercrombie.

Discussion on the Annual Report

(*Annual General Meeting, 5 May*)

MAJOR HARRY BARNES, VICE-PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

THE CHAIRMAN : I have now to present the report of the Council for the official year 1923-24, and to move its adoption by this meeting. The chairmen or other representatives of all the committees whose reports are appended to the Council's Report have been asked to attend, so as to be in a position to answer any questions that may be asked in connection with the reports.

MR. WM. WOODWARD [F.] : Mr. Vice-President and Gentlemen, I think that the production of the annual report is very useful, particularly to members in the provinces and in the Colonies. It also enables us to think of the things we have done and which we ought not to have done, and the things we have not done which we ought to have done, "and there is no health in us." This is the 29th year in succession in which I have had the pleasure of criticising the annual report of the Institute. And looking back for fifty years, which I can easily do, it appears to me, as I said last year, that we are rather drifting into dilettantism, instead of, as we ought to, into a practical business attitude. May I give a few examples, which are my own opinions, and may not be agreed to by the meeting. With regard to the Bank of England, I do not think any member of the Institute, or any few members, ought to have endeavoured to frustrate the designs prepared by Mr. Baker for the Bank of England. Mr. Baker is a distinguished architect, he knows exactly what his clients desire, and we ought to leave him, without interference, to do what he thinks is right for the benefit of his clients and for the art of architecture in the City. Then in regard to St. Paul's Bridge, how much propaganda have we read about St. Paul's Bridge ! Surely the advisers of the Corporation of the City of London know what they are about ; they know whether the lines of the bridge are right or whether they are not. At all events, unless we bring forward more practical reasons for altering the lines of the bridge we ought to remain silent. All sorts of ideas have been presented to the public why that bridge should not be made on the lines suggested by the Corporation. One is the danger to the foundations of St. Paul's Cathedral. If there had been any real danger to these foundations this Institute should have been the first to step in and say : "This bridge must not go forward." For two years past distinguished engineers and architects have been "experimenting" on what is necessary to be done to secure the stability of the foundations of the Cathedral. I have endeavoured to find out exactly what those experiments have resulted in, and all that I can find out is that when I go into the Cathedral, which is the finest Protestant cathedral in the world, I see at the east end a forest of scaffolding. I inquire about it time after time, and I am told it is to see about the stability of the piers. Surely the time has arrived when the Institute should step in and say : "What is wrong?" But, so far as I know, the Institute has done nothing.

Waterloo Bridge. There have been all sorts of propaganda about the bridge, all sorts of efforts to make the hair of the public stand on end. The last I heard about it was that Rennie, the engineer of that fine structure, designed

it so that if you add one foot to the width of the bridge you destroy its whole conception. Rennie built a beautiful bridge for the accommodation of the public at that time, and it was ample for the purpose. To-day we want more accommodation. The London County Council properly desire to widen the bridge, and why is there all this talk about sacrificing the arts, and references to vandalism ? I believe in the opinion expressed by Mr. Andrew T. Taylor, an architect and a distinguished man at the London County Council, who says that if you stand with your back to Wellington Street, Strand, and look along Waterloo Bridge, as it is now, you must conclude that, if anything, it is too narrow, and therefore the widening that is proposed in the centre of the bridge will not be detrimental to its design, particularly as the two sides will be rebuilt exactly as they now are.

A Commission of Fine Arts has been appointed and the public were delighted with the idea. I wish to read you an extract from the *Morning Post* of 11 March last, quoting, as they did, from the *Burlington Magazine* : "People rather vaguely suspected the healthiness of an organisation consisting in practice of a ring of prosperous and powerful architects and sculptors, who were to be invested with power to dictate which of their friends were to be awarded the fattest commissions, and which of their enemies were to be deprived of them. . . . What we detest most in the whole scheme is the outrageous provision that a body so constituted, and using public funds amounting to a considerable proportion of the National Gallery grant, should be empowered to increase and perpetuate itself by its own vote." They are going to institute a secretaryship, at a cost of £2,000 a year for travelling and other expenses. I echo every word which the *Burlington Magazine* said, as printed in the *Morning Post*.

Why, again, did not the Royal Institute of British Architects step in with regard to what is euphemistically termed "sculpture" on the County Hall ? Of all travesties of sculpture, of all peculiar ideas of anatomy, you have only to walk round to see them at this building. I think the Royal Institute, the Royal Academy, and sculptors themselves ought to have taken some action to stop this sort of work. There is another matter, as I said last year, we ought to inquire into, viz., what the Office of Works is at present doing, and how much it is interfering with the legitimate private practice of the architect.

MAJOR H. C. CORLETT [F.] : On a point of order, will Mr. Woodward indicate what part of the report he is now discussing ?

THE CHAIRMAN : I think Mr. Woodward is entitled to draw attention to matters within reasonable limits, and he is entitled to deal with things which are not actually in the report.

MR. WOODWARD : I will now speak of the London Society, and I think I am justified in doing so, as the London Society is mentioned in this report. The offices of the London Society are in Abingdon Street, Westminster, and they immediately face the Houses of Parliament

Have you ever heard one word from the London Society with reference to the work, or rather the want of work, on the decaying ornamental parts of the Houses of Parliament?

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not like to interfere with a time-honoured institution, but we are not entitled, as a society discussing our report, to criticise the action of another body.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Vice-President, I obey at once your ruling.

Now I come to the legitimate part of the report. First, page 369. We are all sorry to see, in the obituary notice, that no less than 66 of our members have departed during the past year. We regret the death of all of them, but amongst them are some old professional friends of mine, whom I would like to mention. One is Ernest Flint; others are Robert Kerr, George Lethbridge, Edward Purchase, and Augustus William Tanner. I am glad to say that the total number of members and licentiates is about the same as last year. Since the last report the president has nominated 19 Assessors and 22 Arbitrators—a total of 41, and I congratulate, as I think you will congratulate, the recipients of those crumbs that have fallen from the rich man's table.

I come now to the reports of the committees, and they extend from page 374 to 387. The number of attendances made at the committees is this time printed, I am glad to say. I find, with regret, that some of the attendances are very few, and I say that men, however eminent they are, who consent to belong to a committee should attend a reasonable number of times, and if they cannot do so, they should not permit their names to be sent forward for election. Some of the members have not attended once. I have never belonged to a committee unless I made up my mind that I should be able to attend its meetings. Of course, we all sympathise with those whose absence is due to illness. But, looking through the list, I find that some of the attendances are not more than 50 per cent., and I think that is not to the credit of the men who consented to their names being on those committees.

With regard to the Board of Architectural Education, if you carefully read that report, you will find that they have done very excellent work; they must have worked very hard indeed. I am very pleased to read one paragraph, because I venture to think my suggestion made a year ago has borne fruit: "A considerable number of students whose work has been rejected have availed themselves of the opportunity of obtaining a general criticism of their work from the committee." I know that idea of the Education Committee has worked well. With regard to the Essay Prize, I am sorry there has not been a better response to this prize, because the writing of an essay demands, first, a power of composition, next, terseness, and then the ability to epitomise. Students will find that if they read some of the volumes of the Dictionary of Architecture of the Architectural Publication Society, they provide examples of the advantage of being able to write well from the contributions of Sidney Smirke, James Pennethorne, Philip Hardwick, and others.

Town Planning. I have said on many occasions I cannot understand what we are doing about town planning. What does it mean? What is the result? During the war

we were engaging men to do certain work in connection with town planning because there was a great dearth of employment. But since then what has the Town Planning Committee been doing?

Now we come to the Art Committee. With regard to the attendances, Mr. Walter Cave and Mr. Winton Newman attended, one 8, the other 7 times. That is an example to all those gentlemen who not only do not attend, but when they do they come in a quarter of an hour or half an hour late, and then ask if they may be informed what has been going on during the last few minutes?

The Literature Committee. There is a very important matter coming under the head of this committee. The Librarian is present, and you will all agree with me that there is no architectural library in existence equal to that of this Institute, and I want to get a definite answer from you, Mr. Vice-President. Are we housing that library in a fire-proof building, or are we not? If not, why not? If the collection is destroyed we shall always regret it; money will never bring it back, and I ask that serious attention should be paid to the provision of fireproof rooms for the books in our library. The other day I had the opportunity of seeing the drawings which had been presented by Mr. Adkins of the works of my old friend James Brooks, his designs for the Liverpool Cathedral, and very beautiful they are. Mr. MacAlister tells me those drawings will be exhibited soon, and I recommend to students the study of the drawings and of the designs. The next matter is, to my mind, a very satisfactory one, viz., the number of readers in the Reference Library during the last twelve months was 7,967, and the number of books on loan was 4,072. If that is not an instance of the value of the library, especially to students, I do not know one.

Next we come to the Science Standing Committee. Very poor attendances I notice. Mr. Bagenal and Mr. Crompton attended the full number of meetings—8. The Science Standing Committee and the Town Planning Committee come within my idea of dilettantism. I have never really seen any *raison d'être* for these committees, but here is a paragraph which atones for all: "Certain important points have been brought out which enable a clearer view to be obtained on the mechanism of tarnishing and assistance in the choice of tarnish-resisting materials." Just imagine a body of architects occupying their time talking about tarnishing! But there is one good thing about the work of this committee, and that is "acoustics." Mr. Keen and Mr. Bagenal have so studied the matter that, as far as acoustics are concerned, I have never spoken in a room with such comfort as I speak in this new gallery. I congratulate Mr. Keen and Mr. Bagenal on the satisfactory result of their united efforts.

I now come to the report of the Practice Standing Committee, and, in my opinion, as a practical man, this is one of the most useful committees of this Institute. It is composed of practical men, and they have very important matters brought before them. And when I tell you that my friend Atkin-Berry is chairman of this committee, you will agree with me that you could not have a better one. There is a possible 9 attendances at this committee; and I see that certain attendances were as follow:—Atkin-Berry, 9; Ashley, 9; Douglas Scott, 9; and Harry

Teather, 9. Also a man named Charles Woodward 9 times, and Mr. Max Clarke and Mr. Hunt, 8 times. Here is an example of what members of a committee can do who attend to their work. I am very sorry to notice that the lack of attendance of Mr. Sydney Perks, Mr. Gilbee Scott and Mr. Cockrill was due to illness. Mr. Gilbee Scott, especially, has done good work for the benefit of the Institute; he has had a prolonged illness, and I am sure you, with me, wish him an early return to good health.

Next comes the Competitions Committee, at which there have been such poor attendances that I venture to pass it over.

And now we come to a very satisfactory part, the Hon. Auditors' Report, pages 387 and 392. The surplus of income over expenditure is £1,496 16s. 11d., as against a surplus in 1922 of £1,173 7s. 11d., a difference in our favour of £323. You will, I think, all agree that is a very satisfactory state of things. Let me quote a few words from the report of the hon. auditors, Mr. Stephen Aylng and Mr. Hutchinson. They say "the funds of the Institute have been carefully and wisely administered, and great care has been taken to effect due economy where possible, without detriment to the business objects of the R.I.B.A.," and "the thanks of the members are due to those officials who, very evidently, have the best interests of the Institute at heart."

We now come to the statement of the finances of the Institute, signed by our chairman, Major Harry Barnes. He says—and I ask you to read this report in its entirety—that we may confidently anticipate a surplus of over £600 on the year's working.

I now come, very properly, to the last of my observations, and that is with regard to the Institute Staff. I consider this an important part of our business tonight. We know that if you pay your employee well, as a rule he will work for you well, and that, I am sure, applies, with the greatest force, to the staff of the Royal Institute. We have a total staff of 20, and, if you will permit me, I will just read out to you the names and the length of service. I start with Mr. MacAlister, who has been with us 16 years. Mr. Rudolf Dircks, our librarian and editor, has been with us 3½ years. I now propose to reduce the salary of Mr. Dircks by the sum of £100 per annum, and I am going to allow the resolution to lie on the table until this time next year unless he resumes the pagination of the JOURNAL at the top instead of the bottom of the pages and puts the date on every page. (Laughter.) We often think of Mr. Northover and Mr. Tayler in looking back on the past. Mr. Godfrey Evans, Assistant-Secretary, has been with us 2½ years; Mr. Haynes, the Secretary of the Board of Architectural Education, 2½ years; Mr. Baker, the chief clerk, 2½ years; Mr. Spragg, the senior clerk, 10½ years; Mr. Steel, Assistant-Librarian, 3½ years, Mr. Neville 4 years, Mr. Williams 8 years, Mr. Dorrington 2½ years, Mr. Sullivan 7 years, Mr. Lazell 1½ years, Mr. Billingham 1½, Mr. Scorer 6½, Miss Davis 17½ years; Miss Mann, Assistant Secretary to the A.B.S. and to the Editor, 2½ years; Miss Odd, 2½ years, Miss Harwood 1½ years, and Serg. Withall 4 years. I believe I am stating a fact when I say that not one of those gentlemen and ladies gets a

shilling for working overtime. You know that the hours of workers in trades are very different from that. Recently I went to the Institute at nine o'clock p.m., and Mr. Baker was still working in the office. I am told it is common for the staff to work two to four hours extra each night, and without a single addition to their salaries. I think you will agree there should be some provision made for that. I can look back fifty years and appreciate the enormously increased work of the Institute and of the various committees. If the members of the staff did not work overtime you would have to increase the number, and that would mean a total increase in the salaries paid. In various parts of the kingdom there is apportioned to staffs what is called a "bonus," but I am not sure whether that system works well. If you once institute a bonus you must go on with it, and if you do that there may be some jealousy as to the way in which the bonus is allocated. I am sure the chairman of the Finance Committee will give the matter his serious consideration. Some of the salaries which are on my list are by no means sufficient for the work they represent, especially bearing in mind the overtime. One example is that of Mr. Evans, Assistant-Secretary, whose work, you will agree, is not adequately remunerated by the £375 per annum he receives. I think you could get over the difficulty by having a percentage increase of salaries, that is a definite proportional increase, according to the salaries received.

My last few words are about our President. I am one of those who say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. I am something of a gastronomist, and the half of the pudding I have consumed has been very nutritious and easily digested. We have the other half of our President's pudding to consume; and, judging by our experience of the first half, we shall agree that the Presidential pudding has been a remarkably good and satisfying one, and when Mr. Gotch leaves the chair at the end of his term, he will do so with as much éclat as that of his predecessors.

THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting is now open for further discussion, and questions can be addressed to the chairman of any of the committees.

MR. W. R. DAVIDGE [F.]: I congratulate Mr. Woodward on the 29 years in which he has successfully maintained the standard of criticism, and on the freshness with which he comes up to his task on each occasion. We can pardon a few digressions in the early part of the speech, because when he has spoken on so many occasions one must look further afield for fresh matter. Mr. Woodward's speech, though very pleasing, is not real criticism. He has glossed over such points as wanted pulling together, and if there is criticism from the same quarter each year there is a risk of glossing over the points which matter. I am with Mr. Woodward in his commendation of the good work done for this Institute by the staff, and a proper payment should be made for the very valuable services rendered by them. We ought to be able to find some means of reducing the overtime Mr. Woodward speaks of, for no payment can be adequate for the work put into it, seeing that it deprives the members of the staff of their evenings. If the work demands it we should have further assistance. I am delighted to see the report is so satisfactory this year, so that there is practically nothing which

one can find fault with at all. On this occasion, therefore, I feel with Mr. Woodward in nine-tenths of what he has said.

I should like to ask the chairman of the Finance Committee what becomes of the surplus mentioned in the report, whether it goes into the general surplus of £1,496, as it does not appear in the assets. Presumably it goes to the banking account, but I should like to have further information on that point.

With regard to Mr. Woodward's general criticism of what has been left undone which ought to have been done, I think his suggestions are a little dilettante in places, particularly when he suggests dealing with certain sculptures which ought to have been criticised ten or twelve years ago, when they were first put up, if they were to be criticised at all. And he was not quite direct in his charges as to the things which ought to have been done by the Council and were left undone.

I feel that Mr. Woodward is quite right in expressing our thanks to the Institute, and the Council particularly, for the valuable work done on our behalf. Another thing is the great change which is coming over the Institute; I suppose we shall have a special meeting to discuss that presently. Most important work has been done on the subject which has occupied us and which the profession has talked about for years—namely, the question of amalgamation. I hoped that Mr. Woodward would have touched upon that most important matter, but perhaps a little later we shall have the opportunity of discussing it. Whatever the outcome may be, the Institute as a body would wish to convey its thanks to the Council and the members of the committees who have given their time so freely on our behalf.

THE CHAIRMAN : I will set a good example to the chairmen of the other committees in answering the question which has been addressed to me. I have prepared myself by having present our accountant, Mr. Saffery, who can tell Mr. Davidge what takes place in regard to the surplus at the end of the year.

MR. SAFFERY : The surplus has been used in helping to pay for the structural alterations. If it had not been for that surplus you would have had to borrow money. It appears in the Premises Account in the balance-sheet. The amount paid for structural alterations this year was £3,300, and this surplus has enabled you, with the money which you had at the beginning of the year, to pay for those alterations.

MR. W. I. TRAVERS [F.] : Would it be possible, in connection with the National Housing, to be told whether the committee have taken any steps in regard to the fees for architects?

MR. WELCH : Is it your intention to take the report of each committee separately or *en bloc*?

THE CHAIRMAN : I think it will be best to take the reports separately.

MAJOR CORLETTTE : I would like to say a word on the work of the Literature Committee. It is impossible to say anything on behalf of the Literature Committee without regretting the loss of our chairman, Mr. Ward. We have already mentioned that as a committee, and the

Council has done so too. His absence is the reason of my being here to-night in his place.

Mr. Woodward tells us this is the twenty-ninth year in which he has spoken to us on the report, and I echo what Mr. Davidge said in expressing the hope that he will speak for possibly another twenty-nine years. But I would like to suggest that Mr. Woodward should occupy some of the time of the next twenty-nine years in endeavouring to come up to date. He referred to the use of the annual reports to the provincial and Colonial members. I would remind him that the Allied Societies in the Colonies are a very small proportion of the Allied Societies which are attached to this Institute; and I would like to suggest, with all due deference to Mr. Woodward, that the greater number of those members abroad are not in the Colonies but in the Dominions, and there is much difference between the two. I say that because it is my fortune to represent in some capacity the Federal Council of Australian Architectural Societies here. Mr. Woodward made a point about the committees' attendances which might be referred to, especially in connection with the Literature Committee. Turning to the list of attendances on the Literature Committee, I will take merely three instances. There is much to be said in excuse for the small attendance in each of those three cases. Mr. Briggs has attended twice; he is not only a member of the Literature Standing Committee, he is H.M. Inspector of Technical Schools under the Board of Education, and he has a great deal of very important work to do. Mr. Stanley Hall has attended only once; he has been President of the Architectural Association during the past year. Professor Hubert Worthington has attended once only, but he comes from Manchester, and he is Professor at South Kensington. To criticise attendances of men like that is, I think, rather beside the point. In the case of many men who are members of these committees it is often sufficient if they attend once or twice, because the opinion of such men on important matters which come up, even if we can only have it once or twice in the session, is well worth having, and we can excuse their absence at other times. Not many crumbs fell to the Literature Committee from Mr. Woodward's table, but we are thankful for the approval he was able to give our work.

He raised one very important point, and that was with regard to the Library. What he said about the position of the library among the Architectural Libraries of the world is quite true. I do not suppose that this assertion will be questioned. The point he raised about fireproof conditions is one we have very much at heart on the Literature Standing Committee. It has been referred to the Council for many years past, and there are or have been many reasons why the Council could not tackle the difficulty and solve it at once. This session, however, we sent the matter up again. The Council realise that the risk to the whole Library is so great that it is time some strenuous effort was made to correct the situation. I may go so far as to say that the Council appointed a strong committee, called, I think, the Premises Committee. I think it may mean that before very long you will have to consider whether you can protect your Library sufficiently in the premises you have, or whether you cannot. That will mean considering the

question of new buildings, either here or somewhere else, because the Library is a responsibility not on the shoulders of the Council, but on the shoulders of the whole body of the Institute, and it will be put to you to contribute if necessary towards providing a satisfactory building to ensure extreme precautions as to safety.

I should like to defend my friend the Editor on a matter which Mr. Woodward mentioned. Mr. Woodward made a proposition with regard to the pagination of the JOURNAL. It would be just as well if questions of pagination were referred to the Literature Standing Committee, because I think Mr. Dircks would be right in seeking some reference behind us, although he is Editor and is responsible for the excellent form in which the Journal is sent out to us.

Mr. DAVIDGE : Is the value of the books included in the assets ?

The CHAIRMAN : No.

Mr. DAVIDGE : What is the value of the books ?

Major CORLETT : It runs into, I think, a sum of something like £25,000.

Mr. DAVIDGE : What amount are they insured for ?

The SECRETARY : £30,000.

Mr. M. S. BRIGGS [F.] : The question of the storage of the Library has been, to my knowledge, discussed for ten or twelve years. Bound up with it is also the question of shelf accommodation, which is not sufficient for the books which are in the Library. There are many which require a proper home, and so the question is not only that of protection from fire, but also proper accommodation for the books.

Mr. C. W. LONG [F.] : I think this matter should be taken up during the coming session. The value of the books may be £100,000, and we are told they are insured for £30,000. I do not think these are very good figures, especially if it came to a question of the books or the buildings being destroyed. If we claimed the sum of £30,000 we should only receive a proportion, according to the premium. It should be the very early duty of the Council to ascertain the value of the books, and to insure them for their approximate value, which seems to be considerably more than the figures which have been quoted to-night.

The CHAIRMAN : The matter is receiving the serious attention of the Committee which has been appointed to deal with it, and to which Major Corlette has referred. You may rely that a very definite proposal will be laid before a meeting which will involve either the rebuilding of our present premises, or our removal. Perhaps the meeting will agree to let the matter rest there for the moment.

Mr. W. E. VERNON CROMPTON [F.], speaking of the work of the Science Standing Committee, said : I suggest that Mr. Woodward is not so thoroughly acquainted as he might be with the work of the Science Standing Committee. With regard to the sentence which he read, I have no doubt it is common knowledge with the members to what this refers, but I might remind

him that a number of years ago it appeared to the Science Standing Committee that something should be done in the nature of research to stop the untidy oxidation which occurs in such fittings as we have in this room—brass, bronze, and other metal fittings ; and after pressing the Council for some time, we at last got them to agree that it was a matter of importance. As a next stage, the Institute put the matter before the Advisory Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and we managed to convince them that it was an important matter, with the result that research is being carried on now, at an expenditure of £800 a year. It is hoped that in the near future some method may be devised for brass and similar metals, whereby oxidation may be prevented. With regard to acoustics, a good deal of very valuable work is being done at the present time at Acton, and I think the initiation of that work can be put down, to no small extent, to the Science Committee working through the Institute and thence on towards the Privy Council Committee to which I have already referred. A letter was written to *The Times* the other day in which the view was expressed that architects knew nothing about acoustics and that defective acoustics in buildings were due to our inadequate knowledge of the science. This was a matter I tried to put right in a subsequent letter. It is the common view of the public not that scientific matters should be dealt with by scientific men alone, but that architects are responsible for the lack of such knowledge. One of the main objects of the existence of the Science Committee is to get the scientific power and knowledge of this country applied better than it has been hitherto in tackling the problems which are so essential to the matters in which we are concerned day after day.

Mr. W. H. ATKIN-BERRY [F.], speaking as Chairman of the Practice Standing Committee, said : With regard to the architects' fees under the National Housing Scheme, that matter is still before the Practice Committee. I am meanwhile not in position to answer the question.

When I came into this room and saw Mr. Woodward here I tried to recall for how many years he has criticised the annual report. I thought it was about thirty years ; he has told us it is twenty-nine. I do not share Mr. Davidge's view that it is a mistake for one person always to discharge that duty ; I think Mr. Woodward has done it so efficiently and entertainingly all these years that we shall welcome his doing it for even another twenty-nine years. When he was speaking I began to tremble as to what he would say about the Practice Standing Committee. I can only say as regards the body of that Committee that the kind things he said were well deserved. He said some kind things about the Chairman personally, which I am afraid were not so well deserved. We much appreciate his kind remarks.

I want to ask you to allow me to call special attention to the report of the Committee on what is termed "Professional conduct." It is very disconcerting on that Committee to find how frequently we receive complaints of breach of professional conduct and professional etiquette. It seems to me that the frequency is increasing, and I cannot help feeling that the standard of honour, and of

etiquette, and of courtesy is deteriorating, and that it compares unfavourably with what it used to be not very long ago. Such breaches, I think, cannot but reflect adversely upon our profession in the eyes of other professions, who are very strict in their regard for matters of professional etiquette, and I think it must also lower us in the eyes of the public. I speak feelingly upon the subject, not only from what has come before our Committee, but also from what I know personally, and I think I may venture to say that there are others in this room who can tell of cases which have not become public. Moreover, I have myself been a victim. I think that the Institute should make it known to the body of members that such conduct is derogatory, and that there should be a protest against it. One finds architects accepting commissions involving stepping into the places of living architects—I will not use the word "supplanting" them, though perhaps I might do that—stepping into their places, making additions and alterations to the work of those architects, sometimes actually pulling down their work, demolishing it entirely, and erecting something different in its place, and doing this *without a word of communication with the authors of the original building*. I do think that it is time that this Institute made it known that that cannot be allowed. It is not fair. Then on the question of advertising. We have received some very unpleasant complaints against members of the Institute for advertising, and my Committee are very carefully considering that question. It is a difficult one when you come to grips with it. It is easy to differentiate between the two extremes: on the one hand a proper and dignified recognition of an architect's work, and at the other extreme a vulgar trade-like advertising which, I am sorry to say, is being carried on by some members of this Institute. That is a subject on which I think you will hear more from the Practice Committee. I wish on this occasion to draw attention to these two matters.

Now I pass to pleasanter subjects. In the first place, under the head of "attendance of members," I should like to pay a tribute of appreciation, particularly to our provincial members. They come long distances, and if you will look at the attendance list you will see how well they have attended the meetings. Mr. Teather, who comes from Cardiff, has attended all the meetings. Mr. Grayson, from Liverpool, seven out of nine. Mr. T. R. Milburn, from Sunderland, four, and Mr. Francis Jones, from Manchester, three. They are a most valuable asset to our Committee, and they bring to us help in matters affecting provincial practice with which we are not familiar in London. I wish to say how cordially we welcome their attendance and appreciate the valuable way in which they help us.

Now just a few words on the question of the staff, a subject Mr. Woodward referred to. After some interval of absence from the Practice Committee, I find that an innovation has been made by which we have the benefit on that Committee of the help and attendance of Mr. Evans and Mr. Spragg, and I cannot speak too warmly of the great value which they have been to us. I think it is a splendid institution that those two members of the staff should have been allowed to give us their assistance.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Welch, I think you have been connected with the fees in connection with the Housing Scheme.

Mr. HERBERT A. WELCH: The Housing Committee of the Institute have the matter of fees at present under consideration, and they are on Thursday meeting Mr. Wheatley, the Minister of Health, to discuss the whole matter in its broad aspect—not only fees, but housing generally. Further than that I cannot go until after the deputation has been received.

Mr. WILFRED I. TRAVERS [F.]: The Bill was passed a year ago, and certain members of the Institute know what the fees are under that Bill. There is an old Ministry Memorandum, which the profession does not consider good enough, and there are the fees given in the *Kalender*, which the Institute thought good. The Institute has not made any ruling as between the two, and many of us are in a difficulty in the matter. It is not the scheme which is coming on under the new Bill that I am asking about: it is the one passed about a year ago.

The CHAIRMAN: Under the 1919 Act the Government were carrying the thick end of the stick: the liability of the local authority was limited, therefore the Government claimed to have something to say on all the elements of cost, including the architects' fees. But under the 1923 Act, the one to which Mr. Travers refers, the liability of the Government was limited, and therefore they did not consider the question of cost; that fell on the local authorities, and for that reason, I suppose, there has been no scale issued by the Government, and no action has been taken on their part. Mr. Travers's point is that the Institute has not set itself to devise a scale to meet the conditions of the 1923 Act.

Mr. TRAVERS: I was told, four months ago, that the Institute Committee was considering it, and we are waiting for the results of that.

The CHAIRMAN: I can supplement what Mr. Welch said, that the matter has been receiving very close attention, and the new scale is in draft. The members of the Institute will shortly be put in possession of it. That is the position.

Mr. W. R. DAVIDGE [F.]: It was not passed a year ago, it is really about nine months.

Mr. WELCH: As Chairman of the Competitions Committee, I have a few words to say:

I will preface my remarks by a general appeal to the Council. That is, that in consideration of this Annual Report, which, I think, should be considered as a very vital thing in the well-being of our Institute, an attempt should be made to obtain the attendance of the Chairman or other responsible official of each of the Committees whose reports are dealt with at some length, so that they may make a general statement of interest to members. The meeting to-night is sparsely attended, and certain reports will have to be passed over with little or no consideration because there is no sponsor present for them. An attempt was made some years ago to get responsible members of the Institute to take on that work.

There have been nine meetings of this Committee since our last general meeting, and in speaking on this report I have the distinction that I have no comments

from Mr. Woodward to reply to—he passed us over in silence, and to that extent I thank him. I have endured him for a part of the 29 years to which he has referred, and I hope to endure a few more years of him in that capacity. I am sure members will continue to enjoy his presence and that urbanity which is so characteristic of him.

Since our last report to the general body we have had under consideration 31 competitions, of which number 16 have been banned owing to the refusal of the promoters to observe essential clauses in the R.I.B.A. Regulations. The consistent policy of the Committee is constructive; we endeavour to the fullest extent to get the promoters of competitions so to amend conditions as to bring them into line with our regulations, and we recommend the Council to veto a competition only as a last resource. I contend that if our work is to be useful and helpful to members of the profession, promoters must be got to work along these lines. It is easy to say that members of the Institute will not take part when conditions are defective, but the better policy is to get the conditions amended. In five cases we have succeeded in getting satisfactory amendments to conditions originally drawn by promoters. Of the remainder, conditions for seven competitions were submitted to the Committee for its consideration and approval prior to their being entered into. That is most satisfactory and important. This Institute is at long last being recognised by promoters as the body to approve conditions before they are published, which is what we have been striving for for many years, and, by easy stages, we are getting there. We shall succeed, in due course, I think, in getting all local authorities to submit to us, for our consideration and approval, such conditions as they draw up without the aid of assessors, before competitions are launched. We have had under consideration the revision of the existing Regulations, to which end proposals were recently laid before the general body of the Institute and were unanimously approved. With regard to juries in connection with the new Regulations, very considerable attention was paid to the desirability, or otherwise, of juries in lieu of the single assessor, and after very minute thought and consideration from every aspect of the case, we felt we could not recommend to the Royal Institute that they should drop the single assessor system, and substitute for it juries. We felt there were serious objections, particularly from the promoters' point of view. There have been unsatisfactory awards by juries, just as with single assessors, and therefore the jury system is not the cure for all these ills. We felt, while leaving the conditions open to promoters to appoint juries if they so desired, that we could not insist upon their appointment.

Town-planning competitions have been under consideration. The Town Planning Committee of the Institute have in preparation a set of Regulations governing competitions of this kind, which should shortly be completed.

With regard to the Cairo Palais de Justice competition, the conditions were much at variance with the Regulations governing international competitions. In our efforts to persuade the Egyptian authorities to revise the conditions, we were supported by the French and

American societies, but unfortunately we did not succeed and the competition was banned. Under these circumstances it is particularly regrettable that the competition was won by a member of the French Institute. The Committee has presented a report to the Council, requesting that representations be made to the French Society, and this the Council has undertaken to do, in order to strengthen the unification of action and discipline in international competitions.

On the conduct of certain members regarding the award in a recent competition, the Committee requested the Council to take action with the members in default, and I am happy to state that full justice has been done. Such matters are extremely delicate and difficult to deal with. Mistakes will, I fear, be made from time to time giving cause for complaint, but I think it is very undesirable that such complaints should be made directly in the public Press, which, I think you will agree, is not the right place, especially in the first instance, for the ventilation of such complaints. Better results will, I think, be obtained by placing the matter before the Competitions Committee of this Institute, who will investigate each case and report to the Council, and it is hoped that justice will result. There will probably be disappointments, but even so this course is, I think, by far the better one to follow. We are desirous that these matters should be dealt with in a constitutional manner, in the hope that, sooner or later, we may get that full measure of justice which is due to any competitor who considers he has been unjustly treated.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Committee, I thank sincerely the Hon. Secretaries who have given so freely of their time and ability to this work. There is much correspondence and work involved in the detailed consideration of conditions for these competitions in order to ascertain if they agree with the requirements of the Institute Regulations. Most competitions have some peculiar local circumstances affecting them, and frequently it is impossible to get such conditions exactly to coincide with our own Regulations, because of these local circumstances. Mr. Ashley and Mr. Ansell have very rarely been absent from the Committee, and the profession owes to them a debt of gratitude for work admirably done.

Lastly, I would like to add my tribute to the assistance received from the staff of the Institute.

THE CHAIRMAN : There is one matter in the Report which has not been dealt with, and that is the Report of a Committee which is not allowed to speak for itself—the Finance Committee. It is necessary to bring auditors to speak for them to certify that they have done their work well and correctly. We have the auditors' certificate, and therefore we can face you with complacency. Mr. Woodward has told you we have saved £600 this year, and he has proceeded to impress upon us the necessity of increasing payments to our staff. I can assure Mr. Woodward and Mr. Davidge that the recommendations made by Mr. Woodward, which, I think, received the general assent of this meeting, will be brought to the notice of the Finance Committee. Members of that Committee, in common with members generally, have no desire to overwork and underpay the staff, and between

now and the next general meeting, probably earlier, I think I may promise, on behalf of my colleagues, that we will go very closely into the matter of the hours worked and the pay, always bearing in mind what Mr. Davidge very properly pointed out, that no amount of pay can meet the undue exactions of work.

And I would say two other things. I think Mr. Welch's criticism of the lack of attendance of the Chairmen of Committees would have been better directed at my inexperience in handling this meeting; I did not realise that my duty was to present each Report separately and ask the respective Chairmen to speak upon it. But of the eight Committees you have here to-night, you have five Chairmen, and of the other three Committees the Hon. Secretaries are present, and on their Reports no comments have been made. If there had been comments, those Hon. Secretaries would have been prepared to deal with them.

The last thing is, if I may be allowed to do so, to temper a little the gloom which, I thought, characterised the speech of the Chairman of the Practice Committee. I do not think I would like his words with regard to professional conduct to appear upon our records without something being said to temper them. The Chairmen of all the Committees are, during the year, concentrating their attention on specific aspects of the work of the Institute. We are to-night in general meeting, and have to see the whole of our work in its due proportion. It is not unnatural that each Chairman may get, perhaps, a little out of balance with the particular branch of the Institute's work which he is doing. A Chairman of Quarter Sessions is not likely to take a very rosy view of human nature; and the Chairman of the Practice Committee, amongst the other valuable work he has to do, has to sit upon a kind of Criminal Court of the Institute, and upon his mind is concentrated the whole of the Institute's questions bearing on these matters, and it is not unnatural that at times he should be rather inclined to take a gloomy view in this respect. But he did not intend it to go out that we had in our profession a larger percentage than in other professions of people who do not come up to the high standard which we associate with professional life. And I think it is the case in regard to professional conduct, as well as in regard to competitions, that it is the growing intensity of our application to these questions at the present time that has brought them into prominence; and that as in practice and competitions we are insisting upon a growing standard in this matter, so we seem to be facing an undue number of cases. I trust that with the united profession which we hope soon to see, the clearer definition of the status and the duties of architects in private and public practice will result in a rapid diminution in the number of cases of the kind referred to.

If anyone wishes to put questions to the Finance Committee, I am prepared to answer them. If not, I ask you to vote upon the resolution: "That the Report and Accounts for the year 1923-24 be received and adopted."

Carried unanimously.

I move that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. R. Stephen Aylung, Fellow, and Mr. C. E. Hutchinson, Associate, for their services as Hon. Auditors during the past year.

Mr. ARTHUR KEEN (Hon. Secretary): I second that with the greatest possible pleasure, and I hope we shall have the services of these two gentlemen for the coming year in the same capacity, if they will both serve.

Carried by acclamation.

Mr. WOODWARD: May I correct a serious omission on my part? It is because I see him so frequently and like him so much that I forgot to name Mr. Arthur Keen, our Hon. Secretary. The work our Hon. Secretary does we all know, and I am sure we are delighted to see him here again as our Hon. Secretary, and I hope he will remain in that post for many years to come.

And I am sure you will all agree with me when I say how deeply we regret the serious accident which has befallen our Past President Sir Aston Webb, and I am sure it is the feeling of this meeting that the hope should be conveyed to Sir Aston that he will soon recover and be with us once more.

The CHAIRMAN: I move that Mr. Aylung and Mr. Hutchinson be nominated as Auditors for the coming year.

Mr. WATSON: I second it.

Carried.

Mr. ATKIN-BERRY: I entirely accept your interpretation of my intention, but I want to emphasize that my remarks were based not only on the matters which come before the Committee, but from personal knowledge over a period of fifty years, and I cannot help feeling that the tendency of what I have mentioned is on the increase.

There is one other point. Mr. Welch's graceful remarks with regard to the Hon. Secretaries of his Committee apply equally to the Hon. Secretaries of the Practice Committee.

Mr. AYLING (in replying to the vote of thanks) said: I have one complaint against our staff and the Chartered Accountants, and that is that they gave us no chance of showing what magnificent auditors we are, because we carefully examined the books and we could not find a solitary mistake, they were kept so well and so systematically

Unification and Registration

The following correspondence has passed between the President of the Institute and Mr. Alfred W. S. Cross [F.], and is published by order of the Council:—

17 March 1924.

DEAR MR. CROSS.—We have to-day, after many months of negotiations, reached an agreement with the Council of the Society of Architects on a scheme of amalgamation which both Councils whole-heartedly believe will be of great benefit to the profession. This agreement will in due course be submitted to the General Body for consideration. We should like to have on the next R.I.B.A. Council the co-operation of representatives of all shades of opinion within the R.I.B.A. working together to make it and other necessary changes in our Charter and By-Laws a success.

The R.I.B.A. Council have to-day unanimously asked me to write to you to suggest meeting between the representatives of the "Defence League" and the present Council at which we can lay before you our proposals and also our suggestions for meeting the points you have raised in your letter of 30 January 1924. We are aware, of course, that there are differences between us, but our present proposals for the amalgamation with the Society of Architects meet in so many ways the objections which your League raised to the original scheme of Unification, and the points raised in your letter deal with several matters upon which it should not be impossible to obtain a considerable measure of agreement. We therefore believe the time is opportune for a serious effort to be made by meeting and discussing the points at difference between us to eliminate from the next Council election the unfortunate happenings of the last two. It is at any rate due to the profession that we should all try to work together harmoniously again.

In view of the approaching Council election the suggested meeting ought to take place shortly, and I suggest Thursday, 27 March, at 2.30 p.m.—Faithfully yours,

J. A. GOTCH,
President R.I.B.A.

A. W. S. Cross, Esq.

J. A. Gotch, Esq.,
President R.I.B.A.

45 and 46, New Bond Street, W.1.
20 March 1924.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT.—Thank you for your letter of the 17th instant. A Committee meeting of the R.I.B.A. Defence League will be called without delay with the view of appointing representatives to meet the Council, if possible, at the time and on the date you suggest.—Yours faithfully,

ALFRED W. S. CROSS.

21 March 1924.

MY DEAR CROSS.—The President has shown me your letter of the 20th instant. We are asking the President, the four Vice-Presidents, and the Hon. Secretary to be in attendance here at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 27 March.

I do not think the exact number of representatives matters very much, and broadly speaking I am sure they

will welcome as many of your representatives as you care to appoint so long as we keep within the limits that enable a useful discussion to take place.—Yours sincerely,

IAN MACALISTER,
Secretary.

A. W. S. Cross, Esq.

2 April 1924.

DEAR MR. CROSS.—We have considered the suggestion of the Defence League at our recent meeting, that the Council's proposals shall be put to a referendum.

We, of course, agree that this is the proper thing to do, and we intend to put out proposals before the electorate at the forthcoming Council election, which is the only form of referendum available under the present constitution of the R.I.B.A., and leave it to the members to decide.

The Charter and By-Laws Committee will further recommend the Council to agree that if their policy is rejected and another Council elected, the members of the present Council will refrain from taking any action that would embarrass a new Council holding radically different views from proceeding with an alternative policy. They trust the Defence League will be prepared to give a similar assurance.—Yours faithfully,

J. A. GOTCH,
President R.I.B.A.

A. W. S. Cross, Esq.

J. A. Gotch, Esq.,
President R.I.B.A.

45 and 46 New Bond Street, W.

4 April 1924.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT.—Thank you for your letter of the 2nd instant. I regret to learn that the suggestion to ascertain the opinion of the whole of the members of the R.I.B.A. on the Council's proposals by a referendum is not acceptable to you and your colleagues. As I explained at our recent meeting the official attitude of the Defence League with respect to the matter would have been settled by a vote taken at a meeting of its full Committee, which meeting as a matter of fact was to have been held yesterday.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. S. CROSS.

46 New Bond Street, W.1.

12 April 1924.

DEAR MR. GOTCH.—Your letter of the 2nd instant was placed before the Committee of the R.I.B.A. Defence League at their meeting on the 8th instant, and I am asked to inform you that the Committee was much surprised to hear that the Council of the R.I.B.A. refuses to settle the matter of the absorption of the Society of Architects by means of a referendum for ascertaining the opinion of all the members of the Institute, as suggested by the Defence League at the conference with you on the 31st ultimo.

We know of no clause in our Charters or By-Laws to prevent the Council consulting the members upon any subject.

This being the case, the Defence League can only offer one of two alternatives:—

1. Either to have a referendum before the Council elections with an agreed joint circular and an agreed form of referendum, or

2. That the League should nominate its own list for the forthcoming election of Officers and Council, and issue an independent circular to the electorate, setting out the grounds of its opposition to the proposed absorption of the Society of Architects.

We consider a referendum will enable the points at issue between us to be fairly placed before the electorate, and should the referendum result in the approval of the Council's proposal the League as such would not oppose such proposal, provided, however, that should the result be adverse to the proposal, then the present Council and such of its members as may be re-elected to the new Council will bind themselves to abandon the proposal, and not to substitute other proposals of a similar character.

An early decision will oblige.—Yours faithfully,

ALFRED W. S. CROSS,

Chairman, R.I.B.A. Defence League.

J. A. Gotch, Esq.,
President R.I.B.A.

MODIFIED FEES FOR DISTRICT SURVEYORS IN LONDON.

The Honorary Secretary considers that the following letter which he has received about certain modified fees for district surveyors in London may be of interest to members of the Institute:—

DEAR MR. KEEN,—With reference to a query by one of the members of the Council yesterday. It may not be generally known that under the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1921, it is provided that where notice has been duly given and evidence of cost has been produced to the District Surveyor within fourteen days after completion, the maximum fees for alterations and additions are as follows:—

Where cost of work does not exceed

£ 25	Fee	£1 1 0
£ 50	"	£2 2 0
£ 75	"	£3 3 0
£100	"	£4 4 0
£200	"	£5 5 0
£300	"	£6 6 0
£400	"	£7 7 0
£500	"	£8 8 0

This implies that in cases of a large building where, say, the ordinary fee for additions and alterations would be £20, the maximum fee payable would only be four guineas if the cost of the work did not exceed £100. Where the ordinary fee for additions and alterations would be only, say, two guineas, no more than this can be charged.

If this information would be of any service to other members kindly pass it on.—Yours faithfully,

CHAS. A. DAUBNEY [F.], F.S.I.,
District Surveyor for Bermondsey.

NOTES FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING. 5 MAY 1924.

ARCHITECTURAL SCHOLARSHIP AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES.

On the recommendation of the Board of Architectural Education it was decided to offer to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge (in alternate years) on behalf of the R.I.B.A. an Annual Scholarship for the advancement of the study of the art of architecture within these Universities in schools recognised by the University authorities and the R.I.B.A. as qualifying for the Degrees of the Universities and for exemption from the Examinations of the R.I.B.A. respectively.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.

It was decided to take up the question of International Competitions with a view to the revision of the existing Regulations for these Competitions

TOKYO IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

On the recommendation of the Literature Standing Committee it was decided to present to the Tokyo Imperial University Library all the volumes of the Third Series of the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL.

THE R.I.B.A. AND THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

It was reported to the Council that in the Poll of Licentiates on the subject of the Council's proposals for the registration and consolidation of the profession, some 98 per cent. of the Licentiates who had voted had expressed themselves in entire agreement with the Council's proposals.

THE ARCHITECTS' AND SURVEYORS' ASSISTANTS' PROFESSIONAL UNION.

The Council unanimously approved the report of the Committee which has recently conferred with the representatives of the Architects' and Surveyors' Assistants' Professional Union, and which recommended that steps be taken to secure the representation of the Architectural Group of the A.S.A.P.U. on the R.I.B.A. Council, that joint enquiries be held on the subjects of the overcrowding of the profession and the establishment of a minimum wage for assistants, and that the Union should be given representation on the Registration Committee.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Mr. E. Stanley Hall was appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. at the Tenth Annual Conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis to be held in London on 3 and 4 July next.

SOCIÉTÉ VAUDOISE DES INGENIEURS ET DES ARCHITECTES.

Lieut.-Col. H. P. L. Cart de Lafontaine was appointed to represent the R.I.B.A. at the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the Société Vaudoise des Ingénieurs et des Architectes at Lausanne on 21 June next.

REINSTATEMENT.

The following were reinstated:—

As Associates: T. H. O. Collings and A. Wickham Jarvis.
As Licentiate: Andrew G. Cole.

Notices

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL MEETING.

The Fifteenth General Meeting (Business) of the session 1923-1924 will be held on Monday, 2 June 1924, at 8 p.m., for the following purposes :

To read the Minutes of the Fourteenth General Meeting held on 19 May 1924; formally to admit members attending for the first time since their election.

To proceed with the election of the candidates for membership whose names were published in the JOURNAL for 5 April 1924 (page 367) and 10 May 1924 (page 442), viz.:—For Fellowship, 13; for Associateship, 3; for Hon. Associateship, 1; for Hon. Corr. Membership, 5.

To read the reports of the scrutineers appointed to examine the voting papers for the election of the Council and Standing Committees for the Session 1924-1925.

EXHIBITION OF ARCHITECTURE, WEMBLEY.

The Exhibition of Architecture arranged by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Architecture Club will be held in the short period Exhibition Galleries of the Palace of Art, British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, from 26 May to 5 July 1924.

The exhibition will be opened by Lord Crawford at 3 p.m. on Monday, 26 May.

The exhibition will consist of photographs and models of the recent work of living architects in Great Britain and Ireland, India and the Dominions.

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION.

R.I.B.A. SPECIAL EXAMINATION QUALIFYING FOR CANDIDATURE AS ASSOCIATE.

The Council of the Royal Institute have decided that candidates for the Special Examination shall be allowed to take the Examination in two parts if they so desire, as in the case of the Final Examination.

R.I.B.A. VISIT TO THE FLETTON BRICKYARDS, PETERBOROUGH.

At the invitation of the directors of the London Brick Company and Forders, Ltd., the Science Standing Committee has arranged a visit to the Fletton Brickyards, Peterborough, to take place on Saturday, 31 May.

The party will travel by the 10.10 a.m. train from King's Cross in a special saloon and arrive back in London at 7.10 p.m. All arrangements in connection with the journey will be made by the London Brick Company, who will also provide luncheon at Peterborough.

Members and Licentiates who desire to take part in the visit are requested to make early application to the Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

CRICKET MATCH.

The Architectural Association Cricket Club have challenged the R.I.B.A. to a cricket match, to be played on the A.A. ground at Boreham Wood on Wednesday, 9 July. Mr. M. H. C. Doll [A.] has kindly consented to raise the team to represent the R.I.B.A., and would be glad to hear from any playing members who would be willing to take part. Mr. Doll's address is 5 Southampton Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.1.

NOTICES

Competitions

BARROW-UPON-SOAR HOUSING SCHEME.

The Competitions Committee desire to call the attention of Members and Licentiates to the fact that the Conditions of the above Competition are not in accordance with the Regulations of the R.I.B.A. The Competitions Committee are in negotiation with the promoters in the hope of securing an amendment. In the meantime Members and Licentiates are advised to take no part in the Competition.

PROPOSED BRANCH LIBRARY, GABALFA, CARDIFF.

The President of the Institute has nominated Mr. Sidney K. Greenslade, F.R.I.B.A., as Assessor in this Competition.

PROPOSED LEEDS MATERNITY HOSPITAL : EXTENSIONS.

The President of the Institute has nominated Mr. R. Burns Dick, F.R.I.B.A., as Assessor in this Competition.

PROPOSED BRITISH PAVILION : INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF DECORATIVE ART, PARIS, 1925.

The President of the Institute has nominated Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, F.R.I.B.A., as Assessor in this Competition.

SALFORD BATHS AND WASH-HOUSE.

The Competitions Committee desire to call the attention of Members and Licentiates to the fact that the Conditions of the above Competition are not in accordance with the Regulations of the R.I.B.A. The Competitions Committee are in negotiation with the promoters in the hope of securing an amendment. In the meantime Members and Licentiates are advised to take no part in the Competition.

LONDON : MASONIC MEMORIAL BUILDING.

Assessors : (1) Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A. [F.], appointed by the President. (2) Architect who is a Free Mason nominated by the special Committee, Mr. Walter Cave [F.]. (3) Grand Superintendent of Works, Mr. A. Burnett Brown. Conditions not yet issued.

KINGSTON : NURSES' HOME.

Apply to Mr. W. Taylor, Clerk, Union Offices, Kingston-on-Thames. Mr. Alan E. Munby [F.] appointed Assessor. Conditions not yet issued.

MIDDLESBROUGH : CONSTANTINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

Apply to Mr. Thos. Boyce, Director and Secretary, Education Offices, Woodlands Road, Middlesbrough. Mr. Percy Thomas, O.B.E. [F.], appointed Assessor. Conditions not yet issued.

VALLETTA : LAY-OUT SCHEME.

Apply to Minister of Public Works, Valletta, Malta. Mr. Edward P. Warren, F.S.A. [F.], and Professor Patrick Abercrombie [A.] appointed Joint-Assessors. Conditions not yet issued.

STOKE-ON-TRENT : HOUSING.

Apply to Mr. E. B. Sharpley, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent. Mr. W. Alexander Harvey [F.] appointed Assessor. Conditions not yet issued.

Competitions (contd.)

MANCHESTER : ART GALLERY.

Apply to the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Manchester. Dr. Percy Worthington [F.J.], Mr. Paul Waterhouse, F.S.A. [F.J.], and Professor C. H. Reilly, O.B.E. [F.J.], Assessors. Conditions not yet approved by the Competitions Committee.

DUNDEE : NEW ADVANCED SCHOOL, BLACKNESS ROAD.
(Limited to architects in practice in Scotland and carrying on business on their own account.)

Apply to Mr. John E. Williams, Executive Officer, Education Offices, Dundee. Deposit, £1 1s. Closing date, 25 June 1924. Mr. John Arthur [Licentiate], appointed Assessor. Conditions approved by the Competitions Committee.

GLASGOW : PUBLIC HALL.

Apply to the Secretary, Office of Public Works, City Chambers, 64 Cochrane Street, Glasgow. Closing date, 4 July 1924. Mr. James Lochhead [F.J.] Assessor. Conditions approved by the Competitions Committee.

HARROGATE : INFIRMARY EXTENSION.

Apply to Mr. Geo. Ballantyne, Secretary, The Infirmary, Harrogate. Deposit, £2 2s. Closing date, 30 September 1924. Mr. S. D. Kitson, F.S.A. [F.J.], appointed Assessor.

LEEDS : MATERNITY HOSPITAL EXTENSIONS.

Apply to Mr. P. Austyn Barran, Chairman of Extensions Sub-Committee, 42 Hyde Terrace, Leeds. Mr. R. Burns Dick [F.J.] appointed Assessor. Conditions not yet issued.

CARDIFF : BRANCH LIBRARY AT GABALFA.

Apply to the Librarian, Central Library, Cardiff. Mr. Sidney K. Greenslade [F.J.] appointed Assessor. Conditions not yet issued.

SALFORD : BATHS AND WASH-HOUSE.

Apply to the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Salford. Deposit £2 2s. Closing date, 25 July 1924. Warning notice issued 16 May 1924.

BARROW-UPON-SOAR : HOUSING SCHEME.

Apply to Mr. Thos. Forward, Clerk to the Council, 36 Humberstone Road, Leicester. Closing date, 31 May 1924. Warning notice issued 19 May 1924.

IAN MACALISTER, *Secretary.*

Members' Column

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

MR. WILFRID TRAVERS, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., has removed his offices from 1 Featherstone Buildings, W.C.1, to 36 Furnival Street, Holborn, E.C.4.

MR. BANKART has removed to No. 35 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

ROOMS TO LET.

Two comfortably furnished bed-sitting-rooms to be let near Brunswick Square. Attendance; breakfast; use of bath; electric light. Terms moderate.—Apply Box 1424, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

PARTNERSHIP WANTED.

WANTED touch with one able to influence Partnership or Revisionary interest in London or Home Counties architectural surveying practice.—Apply Box 222, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

COMMENCEMENT OF PRACTICE.

MR. ERNEST J. E. MOORE, A.R.I.B.A., M.Inst.M. & C.E., Deputy Engineer and Surveyor to the Maesteg Urban District Council, is commencing practice as an Architect, Surveyor and Civil Engineer at "Haresfield," Salisbury Road, Maesteg, Glam., and will be pleased to receive trade catalogues, etc.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED.

WANTED a Small Room or Seat in West End office by Associate with small practice.—Reply Box 4516, c/o Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.

A.R.I.B.A. requires light offices from June quarter, or would consider sharing suite, Westminster or West district. Please state full particulars with moderate inclusive terms.—Box 777, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

A.R.I.B.A., Manchester, seeks Appointment. Varied experience. Design, details, specifications, quantities, surveying and levelling, or would be glad to assist architects who require temporary help in spare time.—Box 9724, c/o Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.

LICENTIATE, good all round experience, desires engagement with view to partnership. Working and detail drawings, specifications, quantities, and surveys. Southern Counties preferred. Small capital available. Highest references.—Box 9220, c/o Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

LICENTIATE, R.I.B.A., seeks post as Assistant. Banks, factories, warehouses and public buildings. Well versed in steel construction. Qualified as district surveyor.—Box 1354, c/o Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

A.R.I.B.A., all-round experience, urgently requires work.—Box 999, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

TO MANUFACTURERS.

The undermentioned will be pleased to receive trade catalogues, especially those relating to steel casements.—Mr. H. I. Cook, A.R.I.B.A., Railway Headquarters, Ebuté Metta, Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa.

Minutes XVII

SESSION 1923-1924.

At the Fourteenth General Meeting (Ordinary) of the Session, held on Monday, 19 May 1924, at 8 p.m., Mr. J. Alfred Gotch, F.S.A., President, and later, Mr. Francis Jones [F.J.], in the chair. The attendance book was signed by 12 Fellows (including 5 members of the Council), 13 Associates (including 1 member of the Council), 2 Licentiates, and a large number of visitors.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 5 May 1924, having been published in the JOURNAL, were taken as read, confirmed, and signed by the President.

The Hon. Secretary announced the decease of the following members:—

Colonel Cecil Locke Wilson, elected a Fellow in 1906. Colonel Wilson was a Past President of the South Wales Institute of Architects and represented that body on the R.I.B.A. Council during the Session 1911-1912.

George Harry Barrowcliff, elected Licentiate 1910.

And on the motion of the Hon. Secretary it was Resolved that the regrets of the Institute for the loss of these members be recorded on the Minutes of the Meeting, and that a message of sympathy and condolence be conveyed to their relatives.

The following members attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted by the President:—

Mr. S. L. G. Beaufoy [A.J.] and Mr. S. D. Iggleston [A.J.]

Mr. Sydney Perks, F.S.A. [F.J.], having read a paper on "The Scheme for a Thames Embankment after the Great Fire of London" and illustrated it by lantern slides, a discussion ensued, and on the motion of Dr. Philip Norman, F.S.A., seconded by Mr. Delissa Joseph [F.J.], a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Perks by acclamation and briefly responded to.

The proceedings closed at 9.35 p.m.

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL.

Dates of Publication.—1923:—10th, 24th November; 8th, 22nd December. 1924: 12th, 26th January; 9th, 23rd February; 8th, 22nd March; 5th, 26th April; 10th, 24th May; 7th, 28th June; 12th July; 16th August; 20th September; 18th October.

